

★ ★ ★ HOLIDAY WISHES AND RESOLUTIONS ★ ★ ★

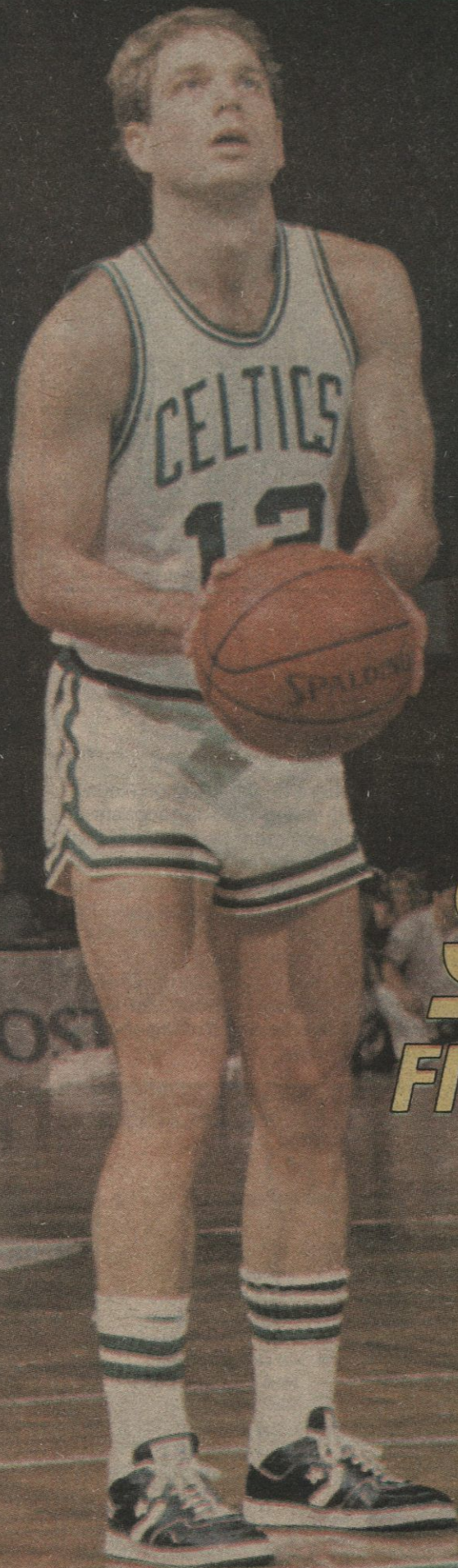
BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Volume 1, Issue 5
December 23, 1985



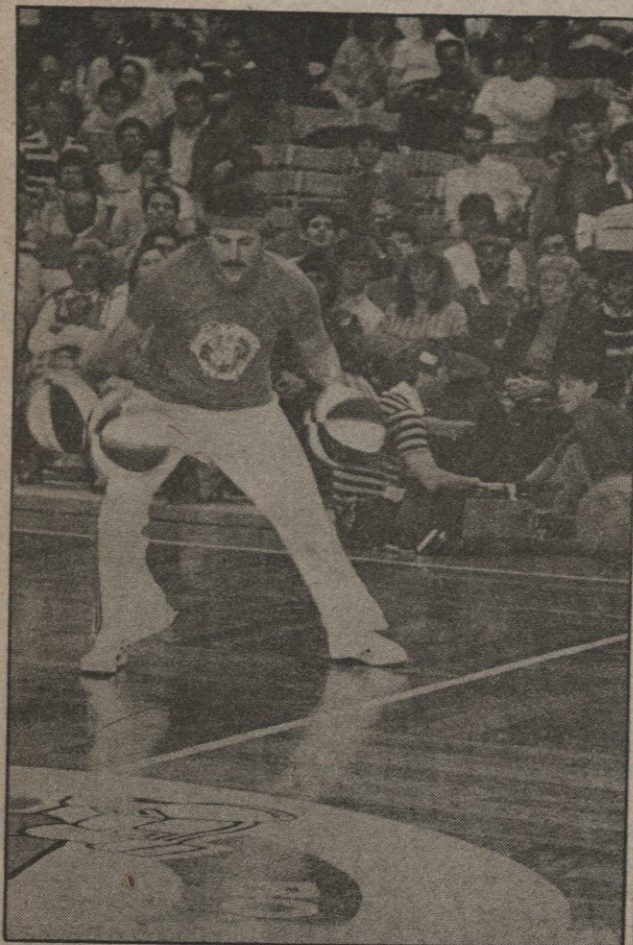
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Crazy George put on a great show for the fans.

Crazy George Returns to Boston Garden

Fans attending the November 29th game at Boston Garden between the Celtics and the New York Knicks were treated to the return of a special halftime attraction -- a performance by Crazy George Schauer, the Basketball Wizard.

Crazy George, who was entertaining Boston Garden crowds for the 11th time in his career, made his first appearance since 1978 at a Celtics game, where he got his start. A 1974 graduate of the University of Minnesota, where he played under Bill Musselman, he first introduced his talents to

basketball fans everywhere on the "Red on Roundball" segment featured during CBS broadcasts of NBA games in 1976. Since then, he has appeared in every NBA arena across the country, at colleges and high schools, and at basketball camps around the world, averaging 300 appearances a year. His ball-spinning, dribbling and shooting exhibitions have amazed fans wherever he has gone.

Schauer, 33 a resident of Cleveland, Ohio, is now a representative of Reebok shoes. He is the author of two books, *Keep the Ball Rolling* and *The Book of Basketball Etiquette*.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5 DECEMBER 9, 1985

Cover...

Jerry Sichting was aquired from Indiana to light up the nets from the outside. He is known for being very disciplined and for being relatively mistake free. Celtics photographer Steve Lipofsky captured his intensity for the cover our fifth issue.

Features...

4... Holiday Wishes/Resolutions

A number of the Celtics reveal their hopes for Christmas and the New Year.

7... Susan Walton

The "Original Valley Girl" is alive and well and living in Cambridge.

8... Jerry Sichting

As each game is played, Jerry becomes more comfortable with his role on the Celtics.

13... Don Chaney

This former Celtics star is off to a favorable start as Head Coach of the Clippers.

14... Greg Kite

Greg Kite plays a much more important role than most fans realize. He gives us the highs and lows of the past two weeks.

15... George Hecht

This unique individual logs more minutes than any of the Celtics.

21... Celtics Scouting

As the College roundball season begins, the Celtics scouts are ready to examine every diamond in the rough.

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Ask Red Auerbach

be nice to have the players wear kelly green. What happened, though, was that all the different companies couldn't match the green, so we had all the players wearing different-colored shoes and it looked bush-league. To solve the problem, we switched to black shoes, and we're happy with the way they look.

QUESTION: Describe your relationship with K.C. Jones.

Matt McCarthy
Boston, MA

EDITORS NOTE: "Ask Red Auerbach" is a regular feature of Celtics Pride. If you have a question for Red, please send it to Celtics Pride, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Red will answer as many as possible in each issue.

QUESTION: Do you remember your first draft pick? Who was he? How did he do?

Timothy Emard
Providence, R.I.

RED'S ANSWER: My first draft pick, in 1950, my first year with the Celtics, was Charlie Share, a big center from Bowling Green University. I traded him before he ever played for us. I drafted him and then traded him for three players: Ed Macauley, Bob Brannum and Bob Harris. It was a great trade for us; each of those three guys were major contributors for quite a few years for the Celtics.

QUESTION: You are regarded as one of the most innovative people in basketball. Are there accomplishments which have given you more satisfaction than others?

Diane Goodman
Boston, MA

RED'S ANSWER: Well, you get a real feeling of satisfaction when you help put in a rule that gets adopted and improves the game. I've been involved in such rule changes as the elimination of the jump ball in each quarter, the 24-second clock, the draft lottery, etc. I've been the cause of some rule changes, also like the league bringing back the rule that you couldn't draft a kid until his college class had graduated, whether he was in school or not. I got a couple of pretty good players -- Frank Ramsey and Larry Bird -- before they changed that.

QUESTION: Can the crowd be penalized for too much noise or anything else?

Andrew Moffett
Quincy, MA

RED'S ANSWER: Yes, the home team can be penalized if the crowd interferes with the game itself. I don't think making noise during the game can lead to a technical, though. Theoretically, you can get a technical foul if the organ player in an arena bangs the organ when a player is getting ready to shoot a foul shot. In some of the NBA cities, they play the organ while the game is in progress, and I think that's terrible. I think the league should try to do something about that.

QUESTION: Why did the Celtics change back to black sneakers?

Leon Bourke
Springfield, MA

RED'S ANSWER: Originally, we wore black shoes. But then, when every player got those individual shoe endorsement contracts, we thought it would

a person. As a coach, he's very low-key, but still firm and he gets the job done. My relationship with K.C. now is just super. I respect him as a coach very much, and I'm very pleased with the job he's done. We communicate very well. I believe that K.C. Jones makes the Celtics as good a team as anyone possibly could.

QUESTION: Is it right that sometimes it's more important to play well than to win?

Steven Aronson
Branford, CT

RED'S ANSWER: No. It's never more important to play well than to win.

QUESTION: What were your halftime speeches like when you were coaching?

Harry Abrams
Framingham, MA

RED'S ANSWER: They were all impromptu. I never knew in advance what I was going to say to the guys. I didn't yell at them or anything. We were always pretty well prepared for games, and if we had played badly in the first half, I knew that they were aware of the mistakes they had made. I might point out some particular weaknesses or errors that they had made, but I never believed in embarrassing anyone.

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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Celtics Reveal Their Christmas Wishes and New Year's Resolutions

What do the Celtics desire, and resolve, this coming holiday season? With the holidays approaching, **Celtics Pride** asked several team members what they were thinking about as the weather turns colder in New England, as the holiday lights glow brightly, as the days become shorter.

Assistant Coach Jim Rodgers: The gift I want is good health and happiness for my family and friends. My resolution for the New Year is to be part of a team effort to get the championship back, and try again to repeat.

Rick Carlisle: I haven't thought much about it, but I'd sincerely be happy if the cable television company would lay down the cable on my side of the street. My New Year's vow is to be extremely wary in describing too much to the writer of this story.

Jerry Sichting: A nice gift would be 3 or 4 more inches of height. My resolution is not to get any more Boston parking tickets.

Bill Walton: I don't think too much about receiving gifts. I feel very fortunate; I love basketball and play it for a living. My life is sort of a Christ-



K.C.'s would make everyone happy.

mas gift. My resolution is to see as many Grateful Dead concerts as I possibly can this year.

Sam Vincent: A most desired gift

would be a new compact disc player. My New Year's Resolution is to continue to be patient about getting playing time, while not losing my

competitiveness and my desire to play and improve.

Danny Ainge. My ideal gift would be to give ideal gifts. I make resolutions, but as yet, I haven't made one.

Greg Kite. The gift I most want is a subscription to **Celtics Pride**. My resolution is to continue to contribute to the team --- both on the court and off the bench in a support role.

Chris Ford. Assistant Coach: The best gift I can hope for is my family's health. My New Year's resolution is to work out three days a week and lose weight.

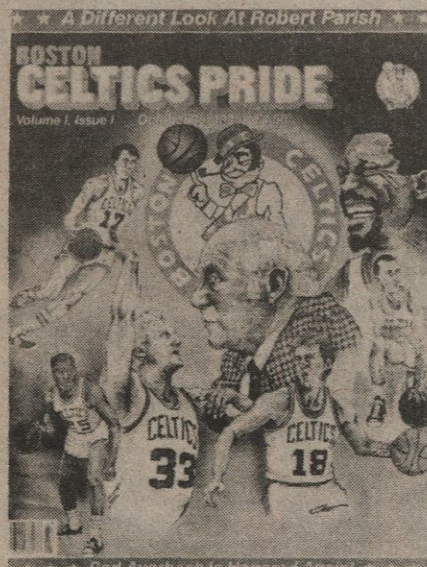
Robert Parish: What I'd prefer for Christmas is a complete stereo system. My resolution is for my family to be healthy and happy.

K.C. Jones, Coach: A perfect Christmas gift is to see my Mom healthy. A New Year's promise: keep my cholesterol down.

Scott Wedman: I'd like a new shaving kit for Christmas. The one I have is ten years old. My New Year's resolution is to make free throws.

Larry Bird: A satisfying gift for me would be for my brother to attend a suitable college. My New Year's resolution is to continue to maintain a positive approach to the game.

CELTICS PRIDE BACK ISSUES



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(WHILE THE SUPPLY LASTS)



Joe DiLorenzo Marries Martha Kinton

The Celtics "family" was increased by one on Saturday, November 30th, when Joe DiLorenzo, the popular controller of the team, was married to Martha Kinton of Winchester.

DiLorenzo, 30, who was born in Medford and lives in Humarock, has been with the Celtics since December of 1982. A 1977 graduate of Bentley College and a veteran of the Boston Garden concession staff, he served as the assistant manager of the Boston Garden Box Office from 1977 to 1980 and as the Managing Director of the Box office from 1980

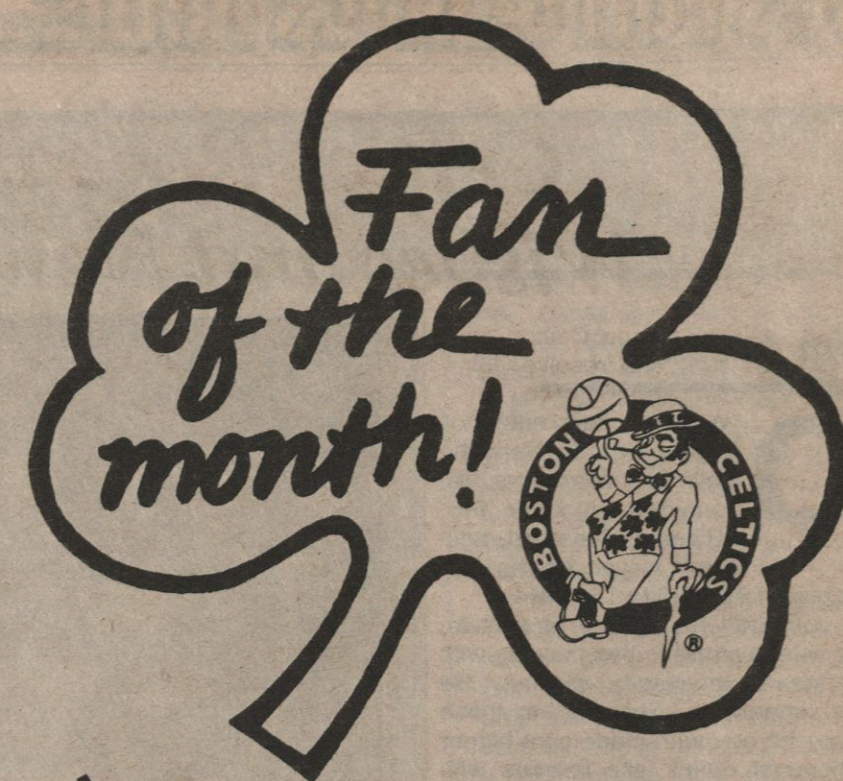
to 1982. The bride is the executive secretary at the offices of the Putnam Investor Group in Boston.

The wedding, at St. Stephen's Church in Boston, was held at 3:00 in the afternoon and was attended by over 300 family and friends. A reception was held at the Sheraton-Boston following the wedding.

The couple will honeymoon in St. Maarten's and St. Bart's in the Caribbean before returning to Boston to join the Celtics in another championship. The entire Celtics family join in wishing the newlyweds well.

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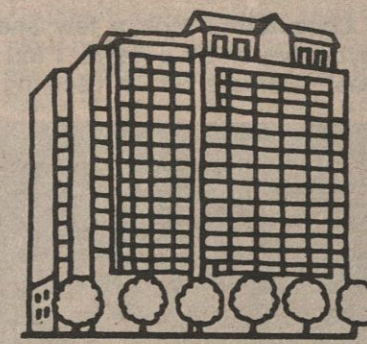
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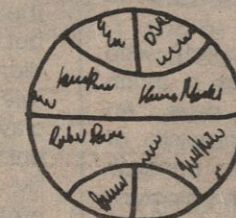
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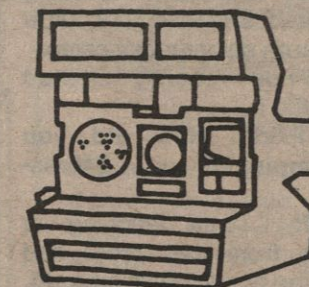


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Innerview

Jim Loscutoff

One of the more notorious figures ever to wear the Celtics uniform was Jim Loscutoff. A burly 6-5, 230-pound forward, Loscutoff played for the Celtics from 1955-56 to 1963-64.

Loscutoff had plenty of muscle, and wasn't afraid to bang bodies with anyone—at anyplace, anytime. He was termed an "Enforcer" in those days—the guy who made sure bigger opponents didn't take liberties with some of the smaller Celtics, like Bob Cousy and Bill Sharman.

Loscutoff wasn't the most popular of the Celtics as far as fans were concerned ("Whenever my name was announced, they'd start booing like hell," he says), but he was one of the most effective Celtics of that era. And if he had to engage in a little fisticuffs to make sure law and order was maintained, so went it. Nearly all of the memorable Celtics brawls of all time centered around Loscutoff.

The 55-year-old Loscutoff, who resides in Andover, leads a much more serene life these days. An education major at the University of Oregon, Loscutoff is a physical education teacher at UMass-Boston, and has been involved in teaching since he retired in 1964. Loscutoff also runs a youth summer day camp.

Celtics Pride recently chatted with Loscutoff...

Celtics Pride: How did you become employed at UMass-Boston?

Loscutoff: I was teaching at Boston State from the time I had retired, then the two schools merged. While I was at Boston State, I was the coach of the basketball team, but just teach physical education now.

Celtics Pride: Do your students realize you used to play for the Celtics?

Loscutoff: They find out eventually. They feel honored to be taught by an ex-Celtics, who played for so many championship teams. I have fun with kids and enjoy working with them.

Celtics Pride: Are you interested in returning to coaching in some capacity?

Loscutoff: Not really. I've accomplished everything I could, and the rewards weren't getting any better. I've decided to let the younger guys get involved in coaching.

Celtics Pride: Weren't you pretty rough as a player?

Loscutoff: I was a rough guy—that's the way I played. I was more or less an enforcer. I played rough and



Jim's muscles are always flexed.

mean, but never dirty or vicious. There's a big difference. I had a job to do and I did it.

Celtics Pride: What did your role entail?

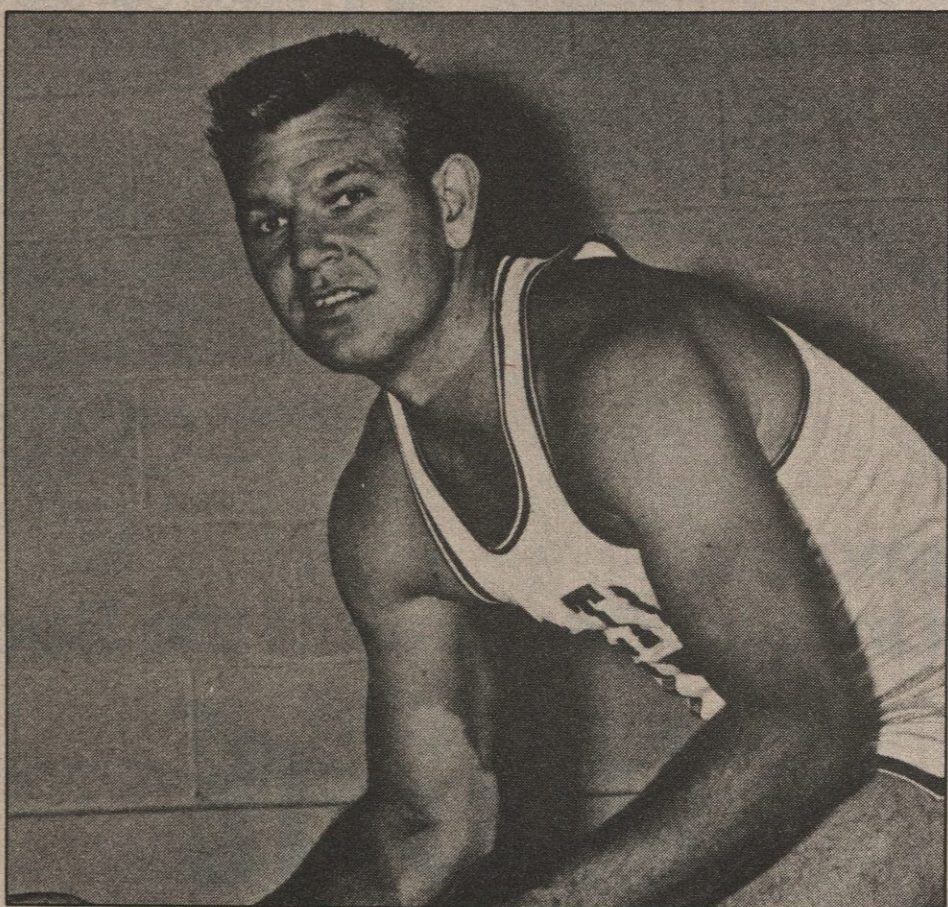
Loscutoff: I think every team in the NBA had an enforcer to a point, but my role was highly exaggerated. I didn't get into a fight every night. My role was to set picks, rebound and play defense. I didn't like violence, but I didn't want anyone to hurt guys like Cousy or Sharman—my bread and butter.

Celtics Pride: Were you always such a physical player?

Loscutoff: The Celtics already had plenty of scorers in my rookie year, then Russell and Heinsohn came along. I knew I wasn't of the caliber of those guys. What the Celtics needed was a good defender, someone to cover the opposition's big forward-players like Naulls, Baylor and Pettit. I didn't mind my defensive role.

Celtics Pride: Were you at all off-ense-minded?

Loscutoff: I took a few shots—maybe five or six a game. I led the Coast Conference in scoring in



He had a job to do and he did it.

college and had to change my philosophy when I came to the Celtics. No one had to tell me—I did it on my own. I played nine years with the Celtics—that's a long time. Everybody had a role on the team, that's why we won so many championships—seven in the nine years I played with the Celtics.

Celtics Pride: What kind of contributions do you think you made to the Celtics?

Loscutoff: I think I contributed as much as anybody else—that goes for Russell, Cousy, Heinsohn and Havlicek and everyone else. I think I did my job. I played nine years. I wouldn't have lasted that long if I didn't do my job.

Celtics Pride: What do you remember most about playing for the Celtics?

Loscutoff: No one will ever duplicate the championship and the dynasty we had and still have. The players had fun—that was the important part. The players weren't in it for the money—they weren't mercenaries—they just enjoyed the game.

We had a great rapport on the team—the relationships between players were great. That was a very important factor in our success. There was certainly a heck of a lot of pride on that team, and we had a lot of success. People filled the seats to see us play everywhere we went, even in cities that normally didn't draw well. It was the greatest thing in the world to be on top and a part of all that.

Celtics Pride: What about impressions of some of your former teammates?

Loscutoff: Bill Russell was the greatest player I ever saw. He had so much pride and desire. He'd always go out and play his heart out, because he hated to lose. Bob Cousy was the greatest guard I've ever seen and Bill Sharman was a great competitor and a self-made player. Frank Ramsey always played as hard as he could. Tom Heinsohn was another great player.

Celtics Pride: How did other players on other teams look at you?

Loscutoff: They respected me and I respected them. There were plenty of tough guys in the league, but I can honestly say I wasn't afraid of anyone. I didn't look for fights, but I didn't avoid them, either.

Celtics Pride: How did you react when you knew it was time to retire?

Loscutoff: I knew I had to go into a new role. Teaching was just as challenging as playing basketball, and so was coaching. I was going into a new environment—it was challenging.

"Original Valley Girl" is Welcome addition to the Celtics Family

by Wilma Mahoney

Susan Walton is refreshing. A tall, striking, lithe brunette, she takes the business of professional basketball and the whims of its fans in stride. She met her husband Bill when they attended UCLA together, introduced by a mutual friend on the college basketball team. A Los Angeles native, and self-proclaimed "original Valley Girl", Susan began UCLA as a history major. She attended the University for six years, but changed majors often and never got around to graduating.

When Bill joined the N.B.A. in 1974, after an outstanding college career, Susan moved along with him on a journey which included stops in just about every major basketball town on the West Coast. According to Susan, each of the Walton's four sons (Adam 10, Nathan 7, Luke 5, and Christopher 4) was born in a different city. She and Bill started out in Los Angeles. His career then took the family to Portland, Oregon and San Diego, California. Injuries forced a two year retirement, during which time Bill attended law school. His comeback began in L.A. and then took him and the family back to San Diego. A complicated trade last summer brought the Waltons to Boston, a move which Susan accepted optimistically.

"The Boston fans are refreshing. They're behind you whether you're doing good or bad..."

Now comfortably settled in Cambridge, Susan and family are enthused about living in the Boston area. The boys are settled in school, and Susan proclaims this latest move "the easiest transition we've ever made," although it's the family's first time on the East Coast. According to Susan, the boys have experienced no trauma in relocating. She states, "It's what they're used to... they don't really know any other way right now, and they want to be with their father."

Undiscouraged by the recent Thanksgiving snowfall, Susan described the thrill felt by her children, telling how amazed they were at going to bed at night, then waking up with snow on the ground. This was the boy's first real experience with it and they spent the day exuberantly sledding, playing and generally getting soaking wet. Susan even looked forward to driving in the white stuff, saying that she is a good driver and that their four wheel drive vehicle would make navigating a cinch.

The Waltons haven't yet had a lot



This is the easiest transition ever for Susan and family.

of time to explore Boston since they're still settling in. Susan has already met many of her Cambridge neighbors and proclaims them "really great people." Susan noted that Bill's niece will be coming to stay with the family next month, which will give

her and her husband a chance to get out and explore Boston and Cambridge at their leisure.

Susan's latest passion is the triathlon. She has already competed in two of these gruelling events and trains daily with a two hour run. She

became interested in this sport after being a competitive swimmer for six years while growing up. The triathlon consists of three events, a six mile run, a mile swim and a twelve mile bicycle race. Susan says that even though it's hard to psyche herself up to go out running in New England's cold, she gets grumpy if forced to give up running for a few days and stay indoors. She states, "If I go without exercise for too long, Bill and the boys notice it and Bill says 'Come on Susie, get out there.'"

When questioned about any special problems involved with being married to a professional athlete, Susan humorously said "Well, it's the only marriage I've ever had, so I really have nothing to compare it with." In a more serious vein, she noted that her husband's hours are never the same, making it hard to plan anything. She added that it's also difficult when Bill is on the road, saying "It's not as if I can call him if the kid's are sick when he's on a road trip and ask him to come and help me out with the children."

The drawbacks are definitely outweighed by the good points, though. In the off-season, the Waltons retreat to their home base of San Diego, where they purchased a fifty-year old (old by California standards!) house. Surrounded by three acres, with grounds containing a tennis court and swimming pool, the seven bedroom

Susan's latest passion is the triathlon. She had already competed in two.

dwelling is located only ten minutes from the beach in the Balboa Park section of San Diego. Because Bill has summers off, the family is able to enjoy camping trips and days at the beach and around the family pool.

Susan also loves being able to attend basketball games and team-sponsored trips which take the Waltons to many places they might not otherwise visit. She loves the enthusiasm of the Boston fans, noting "They're great, we love them. After being in L.A. and San Diego with bad attendance, the Boston fans are refreshing. They're behind you whether you're doing good or bad, they're very knowledgeable and their enthusiasm is wonderful." Susan is not even daunted by the many fans who seek a word or an autograph from her husband when they're out together, saying "Keep on doing it, we love it!"

Susan Walton is a welcome member to the select sorority known to the players and public as the Celtics Wives.

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On the Right team at the Right time.

Make no Mistake: Jerry Sichting Fits Right In

By Tony Cooper

It wasn't easy for Jerry Sichting to leave the Indiana Pacers. After all, since the veteran guard hails from Martinsville, Ind., the Pacers were his hometown team. And not only that, the Pacers had given Sichting a chance to play when no one else thought he was NBA material.

But after five years in Indianapolis, Sichting thought it was best to move on. His contract with the Pacers had run out, and he signed and offer sheet with the Celtics over the summer. After some haggling, Boston finally acquired Sichting for two future second-round draft picks.

Sichting makes no bones about having soured on the Pacers after five years with them. That Indiana is a perennially lackluster team made getting away even more imperative to him.

"I was tired of losing," Sichting says. "My contract was up and it wasn't fun playing there anymore. It was hard to leave friends and family, but it would have been harder to go back."

"It was time for a change personally and professionally. Things had gotten stale. I didn't feel I was being disloyal to the Pacers—I busted my tail for them and made a lot of per-

"I was tired of losing....It wasn't fun playing there anymore..."

sonal appearances. Most of it was for nothing."

However, the Celtics' wheeling and dealing for the 6-1 Sichting wasn't for naught, as Boston was able to work out a deal with Indiana. And Sichting is glad to be wearing the green and whites of the Celts.

"I'm pleased and excited to be here," Sichting says. "I had expected it to happen sooner. I was fed up with Indiana dragging it out for so long. This isn't a bad place to play."

"With the Celtics, I'm looking forward to the games, instead of dreading them sometimes."

All of the new Celtics—Sichting, center/forward Bill Walton, and guard Sam Vincent—all struggled during their first few games with the Celtics, and are still having their ups-and-downs. Frankly, Sichting, might be having the toughest time of all.

A look at Sichting's stat sheet through the first 13 games showed he was shooting .492 from the field (29-59), 1.000 from the foul line (8-8)



Sichting is looking forward to the games now.

and was averaging 5.1 points and 2.3 assists in about 20 minutes a night. Sichting's top point output was against the Detroit Pistons, when he scored 12 in an early November game.

Sichting hasn't reminded anyone of Bob Cousy in his first two months in a Boston uniform. He is particularly displeased about his shooting per-

centage, simply because outside marksmanship is supposed to be his forte.

"I've played mediocre," Sichting says. "I haven't scored a whole lot. That's going to happen, because my job on this team is to score from the outside. I'm just off to a slow start."

According to Sichting, a reason for the unenthralling beginning to

"I try to work on my all-around game, so I won't have any glaring weaknesses. Shooting and ballhandling are my strong points."

1985-86 is playing time. Sichting played 26 minutes a game for the Pacers last year and over 30 the two seasons previous to that. With folks like Dennis Johnson and Danny Ainge manning the backcourt (both of whom have looked good this season), it's not easy for Sichting to see prolonged action.

"When you're playing limited minutes," Sichting says, "you're going to have good and bad games. My job here is to back up Dennis and Danny. That's the way it's gonna be. I'm not down about the number of minutes I've been getting. This was expected."

It was expected that Sichting would be a major contributor to the Celtics this year. And even though Sichting terms his own performance as "mediocre", the Boston brass seems to be pleased with him.

"He's much more comfortable with the offense now," Celtics Coach K.C. Jones says. "Everything else has been the same since day one. He's been everything we thought he'd be."

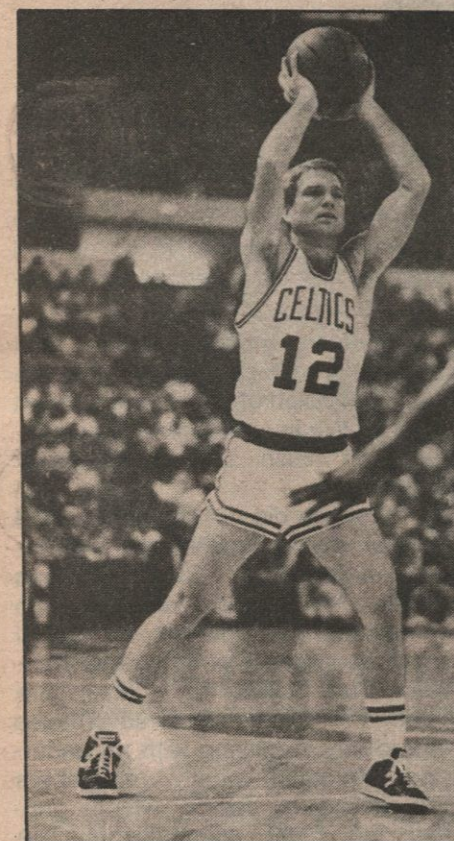
Says assistant coach Jimmy Rodgers: "Over the last couple of years, we've had high esteem for Jerry. He's a perfect guy to have coming off the bench."

When Sichting is on the court, you know he isn't going to make

"When you're playing limited minutes, you're going to have good and bad games."

many mistakes. He can be trusted with the ball and has been a deadly outside shooter in the past (.521 last year, .532 the season before). What the Celts liked about Sichting was he's a veteran guard who won't hurt the team when given the call.

"I try to work on my all-around game, so I won't have any glaring weaknesses," Sichting says. "Shooting and ball-handling are my strong points." Sichting had a representative career at Purdue University, where he averaged 13.6 points and shot .507 from the field as a senior. He was a fourth-round pick of the Golden State Warriors in 1979, but was waived during training camp. It was not until the next year that he signed with the Pacers. Sichting didn't begin his Pacers career with a bang. He played only 47 games and 450 minutes as a rookie in 1980-81, averaging a mere 2.0 a game. The following year, 51 games and 800 minutes were given out to him. He scored 4.2 poin-



Jerry's Key is playing time.

ts and handed out 2.3 assists a game.

It was not until 1982-83 that Sichting proved he was indeed a legitimate NBA player. He appeared in 78 games, scored 9.3 points a night, and had 5.6 assists a game.

The key to the turn-around in his career, Sichting says, was PT (playing time).

"A lot of players end up doing better than what's projected for them," Sichting says. "It's a matter of lucking out and playing a lot of minutes. That's what happened to me."

"A lot of guys don't get the chance to play coming out of college. I was on the right team—I thought I'd make it." Sichting probably never thought he'd make it to Boston. And he's glad to be here, even though he's pretty far away from his home state of Indiana.

"I wouldn't pick another team to be on," Sichting says. "This team has a great tradition—they've been so good for so long. And there's a lot of pride with the fans and within the organization."

SELF PORTRAIT



JERRY SICHTING

BIRTHDATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: November 29, 1956 at Martinsville, Indiana

FAVORITE MOVIE CHARACTER: Michael Corleone, in the film "The Godfather"

IF I WERE REINCARNATED I'D BE: A guitar player in a rock and roll band

IF I COULD BUY ANY CAR I'D BUY A: Cadillac Stretch Limousine
FAVORITE ALL TIME TV SHOW: I don't watch much TV, but, "Andy Griffith" because I liked Barney Fife.

FAVORITE ANIMAL IN THE ZOO: Gorilla

ENTREE I WOULD CHOOSE FOR MY LAST MEAL: T-Bone Steak
THE FOUR GUESTS AT MY FANTASY DINNER PARTY: Jill St. John, Cheryl Ladd, Olivia Newton-John, Katherine Ross

FAVORITE CITY IN THE NBA: Chicago

FAVORITE RESTAURANT: Scotch and Sirloin

FAVORITE COMEDIAN: David Letterman

FAVORITE BOARD GAME: Monopoly

IF I HAD TO CHOOSE ANOTHER PROFESSION, I'D BE: An Airline Pilot

HIGH SCHOOL NICKNAME: Cricket

FAVORITE DRINK: Iced Tea and Long Island Iced Tea

OLDEST PIECE OF CLOTHING: Basketball Jerseys from high school

I'D SPEND MY LAST \$10 ON: Cheap tennis shoes

IF I COULD CHANGE PLACES WITH AN ACTOR, I'D PICK: Jack Nicholson

I WISH I KNEW HOW TO: Play a musical instrument



He wouldn't pick another team to be on.

Bird Named NBA Player of the Week

Larry Bird was named the NBA Player of the Week for the period ending Dec. 1. Bird averaged 30.5 points a game, 10.5 rebounds and 5.3 assists, shooting 47-for-94 from the field and 28-for-30 from the free-throw line as the Celtics won all four of their games. Bird is eighth in league scoring with a 23.6 average, ninth in rebound (9.7) and third in free-throw percentage (.939).



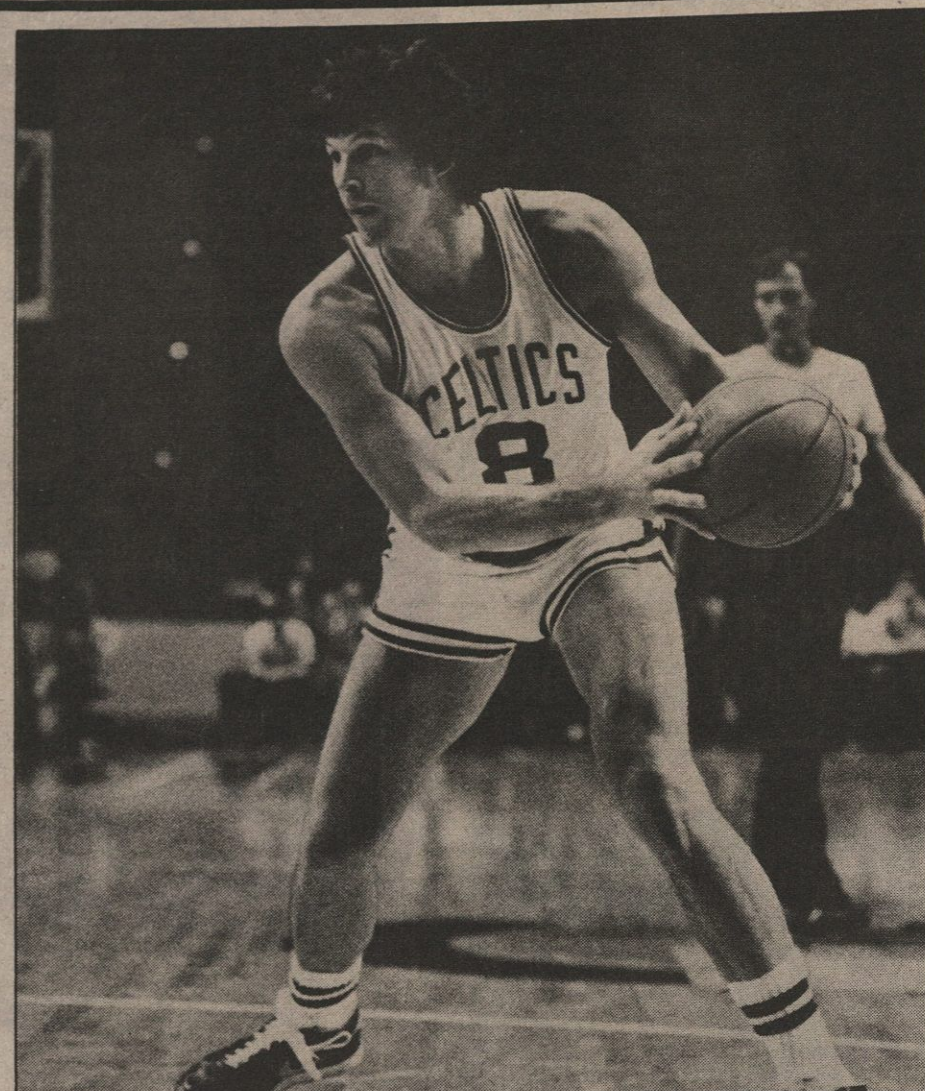
Larry Bird: honored by NBA



Wedman Elected to University of Colorado Hall of Fame

Scott Wedman was recently elected to the University of Colorado Hall of Fame, it was announced by the school in Boulder.

Wedman played four seasons of varsity basketball for Colorado; he averaged 16.7 ppg and 8.7 rebounds per contest. He played on a team which never finished higher than second in the Big Eight. Nevertheless, he was the 6th player chosen in the 1974 draft, by the Kansas City-Omaha Kings. He quickly justified this choice by making the 1975 All-Rookie Team. "It was great hearing about that," Wedman noted last week. "Colorado is a superior college and my



Scott remembers the great college basketball.

memories are fond ones. I do feel some sense of accomplishment. It was the first time I had been away from home (as an incoming college freshmen) ---and then to go on and achieve honors in sports is something I'm very proud of."

Wedman played under Sox Walseth. The team drifted within the second division of the league through much of Wedman's career. However, they did finish 2nd in his junior season.

"Walseth did not like zones, so I learned strong fundamental man-to-man defense at CU," Wedman recalls. "We played a variety though sometimes. For example, we played a box and one defense against Kansas's Bud Stallworth. I played the 'one' --- there were advantages individually in playing with an underdog. Wedman mostly remembers the collegiate fervor which gripped Big Eight competition. "The gyms would be packed for every game; in places like Missouri, with their stars John Brown and Al Eberhard, games were pretty exciting." Colorado won that game in a major upset at that time.

Other major victories included those over Long Beach State (with Ed Ratliff), New Mexico State, and Arizona.

"Student fans were more emotional," Wedman says. "Every contest was one big pep rally."

Celtics Place Sly Williams on Waivers

December 2. The Celtics put 6-7 Sly Williams on waivers ending his two-month career in Boston. "Sly was just not fitting into the role we were looking for him to fill," said General Manager Jan Volk. "He does not fit into the Celtics plans. This is totally independent of his physical condition."

Williams averaged nine minutes in his six games in green and white, scoring 17 points (5 for 21, .238 from the field) and pulling down 15 rebounds.

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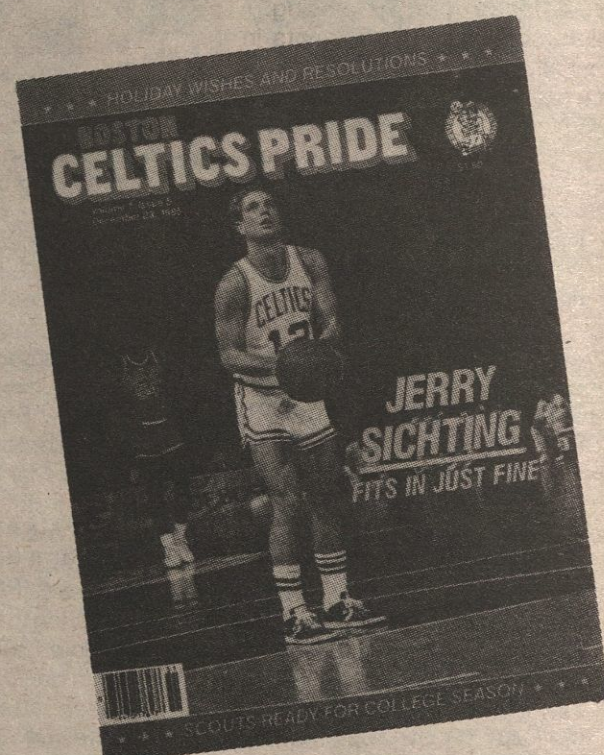
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K.C.'s Corner

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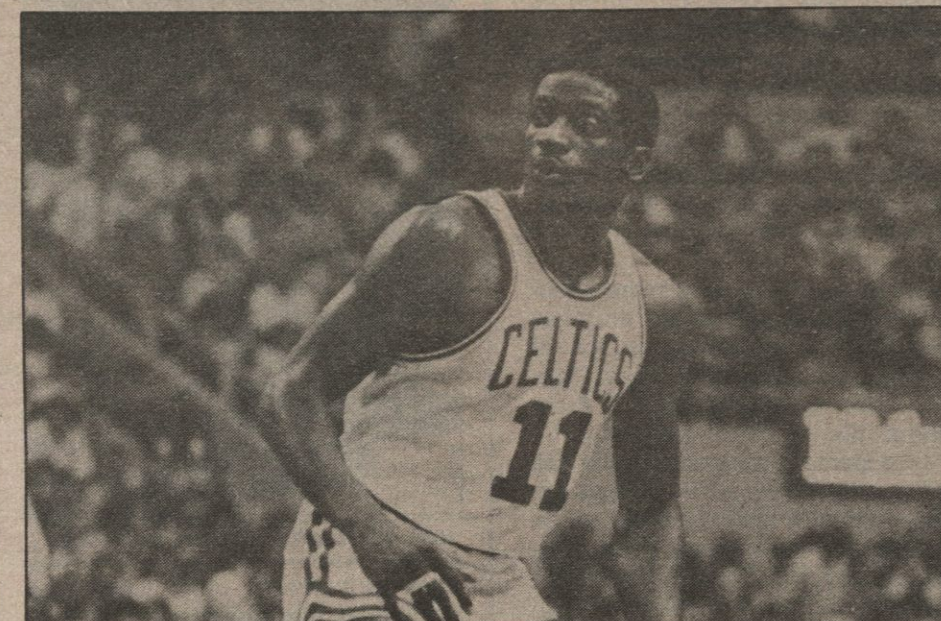
I am pleased with the progress of our ballclub in the early stages of the season. This has been accomplished against new contenders (Utah, Indiana) and traditional rivals (Washington, Philadelphia, and New York). This most recent period of our season has been highlighted by the play of Robert Parish, the emergence of Sam Vincent, Larry Bird's resurgence and the renewal of the Philly war.

We extended our early season winning streak to eight against the Bullets in Boston by playing some of our best basketball of the season. Our passing game was clicking, Danny Ainge was shooting the ball superbly (10-15 from the field), and our defense was imposing. The Bullets scored only 37 points in the first half. But something happened; we were up, 69-41, and shooting for a 30-point margin. Then Gus Williams stole the ball and the Bullets began a long slow climb back into the contest. With 6:00 remaining, it was 96-86, and I called timeout.

The Celtics use some timeouts for setting up defenses. Other pauses are for calling a particular player's number. But this one was unusual because we said almost nothing for the entire 90 seconds. We looked at each other --- I knew, and the players knew, that a safe victory was in danger of being erased. We all had done it. Finally I said, "Let's regroup out there, run a play with some inside passing, and return to fundamentals." In so many words. We struggled home with the win.

The following night our streak ended against an Indiana team which played their best game of the year. There was a packed arena, and the owners were in the stands, so George Irvine didn't have to say a lot to inspire his team.

I think there are several quality teams in the league this year; for example, Detroit, Milwaukee, New Jersey, Washington, Phoenix, Utah,



Sam Vincent: impressive confidence.

Dallas. This type of club comes after us every night. With their best effort. We've matched this consistently over the past four seasons, but some nights, players like Clark Kellogg will score the winning shot. Indiana won, 111-109.

Against the Bullets, Robert Parish suffered some ligament damage in his elbow. Robert has always played in very physical games against Washington---since 1981, against Ricky Mahorn, and now (with Mahorn in Detroit), against Jeff Ruland.

When Robert went out of the game, the Bullets slashed our lead. I believe this gives an accurate indication of the way Robert's played for our ballclub this year.

I gave Robert a day off later in the week, after he had led us to an overtime win against the Jazz. He deserved it; with the addition of Bill Walton, Robert is playing with renewed energy. He has given us offense, rebounding, full-court running. Watching him play against Utah's 7-4 Mark Eaton was seeing a pro at work. He drew Eaton away from the basket, moved side to side along the foul line, and then blew by Eaton

on drives and crashes to the offensive board. And when the game was there to win in the overtime, Parish scored six consecutive free throws, with an aching arm.

The statistics reflect his effort: 25 points, 17 rebounds, 3 blocks, 2 steals versus the Jazz. Twenty points, 12 rebounds, 2 blocks at home against Philadelphia. Twenty-seven points 12 rebounds, 3 steals at New York, and 25 points, 9 rebounds, 3 blocks in the return match at Philly. I

sorry for himself. He needs to remind himself that he is in the pros making a very good living. The rookie's immediate task is to utilize practice time, to try and outplay one of two players ahead of him.

He played extremely well in the four wins over Philadelphia (twice), New York, and Detroit---pushing the ball up, leading, keeping his poise, playing effectively with Rick Carlisle. If these early signs persist, our team has another tool.

We'll need every tool; the race for the top spot is very competitive. All teams try to exploit their best assets; against Philadelphia and Detroit, for example, we have worked Kevin McHale inside against Charles Barkley and Kent Benson respectively. Against Philadelphia, we try to contain their offense within one side of the court and prevent them from swinging the ball from one side of the court to the other. This is important because we help out on Julius Erving and Moses Malone. We respect the Pistons' inside game but the key there is to stop Isiah Thomas, a man I have tremendous respect for. His injury against us helped our chances to win.

We have been persistent defensively, relying on it to support our offensive output. In Philadelphia, we shot well early, but staggered later. We held them under 100 points, however.

Larry Bird had not been shooting well but in Philadelphia he passed effectively. Then he lit it up for 47 against Detroit.

A superstar's effect on a team is two-fold: when he is clicking on offense, we obviously benefit. We're helped by the production---Larry's scoring against Detroit included both long and short range scoring. But sometimes a great player's outstanding play helps lift teammates, fires them up, and they play that much sharper.

If he is off his game, teammates again may play more effectively. To compensate; almost as if picking up a player who is out with an injury.

Larry picked up his passing at New York and at Philadelphia. Back home after we won in Philly, we were tired; Bird's scoring was especially welcome. I'm hoping he has regained his shooting eye.

Robert, Sam, and Larry propelled our ballclub recently. We'll need to continue to help one another. In the first two weeks of December, we play six games in five cities. We'll need everybody's contribution.





M. L. Carr

We still have a great Rivalry with 76ers

What's wrong with the 76ers? The Philadelphia 76ers are a team in transition. They have a lot of older players on the team. I think they're still a very talented team, the players just aren't 25 years old anymore.

I could tell last year something was wrong in training camp. Some players were feuding with Billy Cunningham—I think that's why he moved on. When you have that kind of negativity going on, you have to get above that.

Andrew Toney has missed almost the entire season with a broken foot. He's one of the Sixers' most vital players—we all know that. With Toney out, defenses have a chance to key more on Moses and Dr. J. They just don't have it in the backcourt. With Toney there and Maurice Cheeks, Philadelphia had one of the most talented backcourts in the league. Without him, the backcourt isn't there—and they traded Clint Richardson to the Indiana Pacers.

I'm not surprised the Sixers are playing poorly. You can say it's because they have a new coach and a new system, but I'm not sure about that. They've had things happen in the lockerroom that aren't conducive to winning.

The 76ers owner, Harold Katz, has been making negative statements about the team. That's a detriment. He's got a right to do it, since he owns the club. But that's not in the team's best interest in terms of wins and losses. Some players might say, "Well, if he wants to treat us like dogs, then we'll play like dogs."

I know if I were on a team and the owner did that, I wouldn't take too kindly to it. I'd talk to the owner straight up about it and try to organize the players to talk to the owner about it. Those are the things that would have to be done.

Despite all their problems, you

still can't dismiss Philadelphia. This is still a very talented team, although they're not as talented without Toney. They'll be better when he gets back, but they still won't be of the caliber of the Celtics. Nobody is. We still have a great rivalry with the Sixers.

As far as other teams in the Atlantic Division are concerned, the New York Knicks are having a lot of growing pains, physical ones, too. They have to put together a team without two of their top players—forward Bernard King and center Bill Cartwright. The season will pass by pretty quickly if they don't get those two back in there pretty soon. The Knicks just aren't a strong team without those two guys in there— even with Patrick Ewing.

You always have to be afraid of the New Jersey Nets. They're capable of winning against anybody. They're a veteran club—they're not the kiddie corps anymore. They have the weapons to beat you.

It's hard to get a grip on the Washington Bullets. Sometimes they



Red Auerbach: "Unpack your bags"

come out strong, other times they can't beat the weak teams. I don't want to take the Bullets lightly, but they won't dominate the division.

As far as other teams in other divisions go, I felt the Chicago Bulls could make it go with George Gervin, Michael Jordan and Kyle Macy. They're not as good with Jordan on the sidelines. The Bulls will be much better when he comes back.

Detroit is probably the scariest team in the league to me, for no other reason than Isiah Thomas. He knows how to move the ball around and get everyone good shots. Detroit can play and win in a number of ways. They can play a power game or a finesse game—and they always have an upbeat style of play.

The Pistons can beat anyone on any court. I'm frightened by them more than anyone else. They'll be right there.

Milwaukee will be right there, too. Don Nelson always does a good job with his players. The Bucks will always be there.

The team that has disappointed me the most is Cleveland. Maybe I saw it wrong, but in the playoffs last year, I saw a team that took the Celtics to the wire with a mixture of young and veteran players. Roy Hinson was coming into his own, World Free is All-World and John Bagley was playing well. Cleveland played us smart in the playoffs, but it's not there for them this year.

Maybe they sat around and enjoyed last year and haven't been doing the same things that got them into the playoffs last year. You've got to do the same things in crunch times in the regular season that you do in the playoffs. You don't do that if roles on the team aren't defined and players are insecure.

Insecurity is one of the biggest problems in the NBA. In Boston, Red Auerbach says "You come here to unpack your bags, not to have them packed". Other teams aren't like that. How are you going to produce if you're insecure?

I said it would take a few weeks for the Celtics to come together, but I was wrong. The Celtics have already done it. I don't see how the Celtics can be beaten, and I know I'm saying that very early. We've got a team that's motivated, and the players compliment each other very well.



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Chaney Confident about Clippers.

By Tony Cooper

After Jim Lynam was fired, assistant Don Chaney took over as head coach of the Los Angeles Clippers on an interim basis, for the final 21 games of the season. Chaney made no qualms about his aspirations of keeping the job on a permanent basis, but during the offseason, there was much question as to whether he'd get his wish.

"It was up the air," says Chaney, a former Celtics guard. "A lot of ex-NBA coaches and college coaches were interested in the job. A lot of people were waiting for this job. The Clippers are a young team with a lot of potential, and being in Los Angeles made coaching here even more desirable."

The Clippers finally deemed Chaney desirable enough to give him the position. One of the biggest plusses going for Chaney was the Clippers players made it clear they wanted Chaney in charge of the operation.

"It made me feel good that the players were behind me and wanted me as coach," Chaney said.

True, there are many coaches around with far more NBA experience than Chaney's 20 games, but he's not too concerned about that.

"I feel pretty confident," Chaney says, "I don't see the lack of experience as a problem. I had a taste of it last year—it wasn't a new experience. I had all summer to think about it."

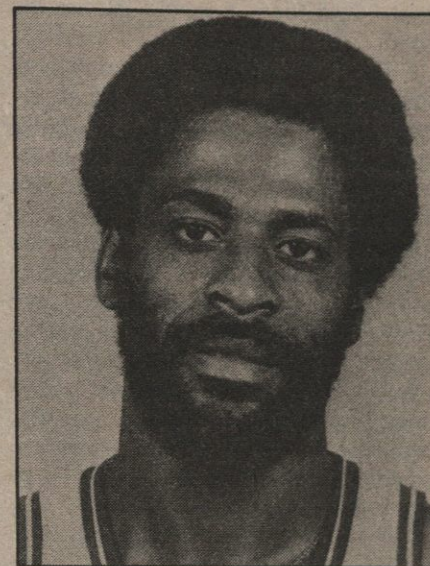
The Clippers played better in their first five games of the season than Chaney could've ever imagined. Los Angeles was undefeated during that span, and was sitting pretty atop the Pacific Division. LA has since come down to planet Earth, but could be a playoff contender.

"Things are going pretty well," Chaney says. "Naturally, things are on the upper end. It's still a big challenge. I'm very surprised and pleased. I thought it would take a while before we developed chemistry as a team. But things have materialized quicker than I expected."

"I felt if we managed to acquire the players we wanted, we'd have a shot at the playoffs. If we continue to play at this level, we'll make the playoffs."

The Clippers were holding their own in the early-going despite the absence of guard Norm Nixon, who was out in a contract dispute. Los Angeles' top performer has been ex-Warrior forward Derek Smith, of whom Chicago Bull wonderkind Michael Jordan said, "The only thing wrong with him is no one's heard of him."

Celtics fans have obviously heard of forward Cedric Maxwell. The veteran forward was dealt to the Clippers in the offseason for center



The Players wanted Don.

Bill Walton. Chaney and Maxwell are old buddies. Not only are they former Celtics teammates, but Chaney introduced Maxwell to his future bride.

Chaney didn't want Maxwell on the Clippers because of their friendship, though. The rookie head coach thought Maxwell could help the Clips, and Chaney says he has.

"Cedric has been playing very well," Chaney says. "He's providing leadership, rebounding and defense. And he scores now and then, too."

Much is also expected of rookie center Benoit Benjamin. The 7-footer

out of Creighton was the NBA's third pick in the June draft. Chaney considers him a franchise-builder, although he concedes Benjamin has much to learn.

"He's going according to schedule," Chaney says. "We thought it'd be a while before he'd contribute. Benoit is consistently improving with each game. He's contributing with defense, getting rebounds, blocking shots and guarding people. His offense is suffering—he has a lot to learn."

When Chaney was playing, he made his living not from scoring points, but by preventing others from doing it. Chaney was one of the best defensive guards in the NBA (he played with the Celtics from 1968-69 to '74-75, and again from 1977-78 to 1979-80. Chaney was with the ABA Spirits in '75-76 and with the Lakers for nine games in '77-78). His career scoring average was just 8.9 points a game, but Chaney was one of the most valuable Celtics.

Chaney was a teammate of former NBA great Elvin Hayes at the University of Houston. He vividly remembers his rookie year in Boston.

"The Celtics had always been one of my favorite teams," Chaney says. "To be drafted by them and thrown in with the guys you emulated, that was some kind of experience for me as a young player. I learned a lot from them."

That '68-69 club won the championship, giving the Celtics back-to-back titles, a feat no one else has accomplished since, but the following

season, Boston didn't even make the playoffs. That gave the team the dubious distinction of being the only team ever to follow up a championship season with a non-playoff campaign.

"I had the experience of what it was like to be on an established championship team," says Chaney, who was known as "The Duck". "The next year, I experienced being on the bottom. It was tough."

But wearing the green and white wasn't tough.

"The players had a family relationship," Chaney recalls. "The guys enjoyed each other. They had a closeness you don't find in NBA teams."

Nowadays, Chaney, who began his NBA coaching career as an assistant with Detroit in 1980, has to try to beat the Celtics when his Clippers face Boston.

"I played with the Celtics 9½ years," Chaney says. "At first, having to compete against them was awkward. Now I see them as another team."

Chaney has moved up the NBA coaching ladder quickly. Less than five years after his playing days ended, he had himself a head coaching job.

"I've been fortunate," Chaney says. "I've been blessed with a good pro career, and after that, I was an assistant in Detroit. I didn't have a break—I was in coaching the year after I stopped playing. A lot of it has to do with being in the right place at the right time."

TOM HEINSOHN presents ...



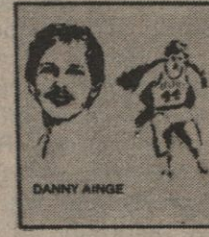
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Greg Kite tells what its like "Back Stage"

When the Celtics drafted Greg Kite with their 1st pick in the 1983-84 draft (the 21st selection in the whole draft), the player's role in Boston was immediately defined.

"We got the guy we wanted," said Red Auerbach at the time. "Drafting in the 21st spot, we didn't expect to find a potential starter. In Kite, we think we have a guy who can fill in at center and provide a solid job."

In Kite's role, development was the key, and the Brigham Young graduate has met the brass's expectations. Kite was admittedly rough when he arrived at the Celtics rookie camp in 1983. The coaches were watching him carefully: the makeup of the team had changed, from the considerable frontcourt depth of the Rick Robey era to balance between the talent up front and the backcourt.

Greg Kite's job is a version of sports back stage--offensive execution and relief. He has progressed from and uncertain rookie to the player able to battle Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for important minutes in last season's championship final. Statistics are meaningless: Kite's importance is reflected in hard work at practice, the ability to sustain concentration in sporadic game appearances, and in a positive team attitude.

Greg Kite recorded his impressions during the past two weeks for **Celtics Pride**.

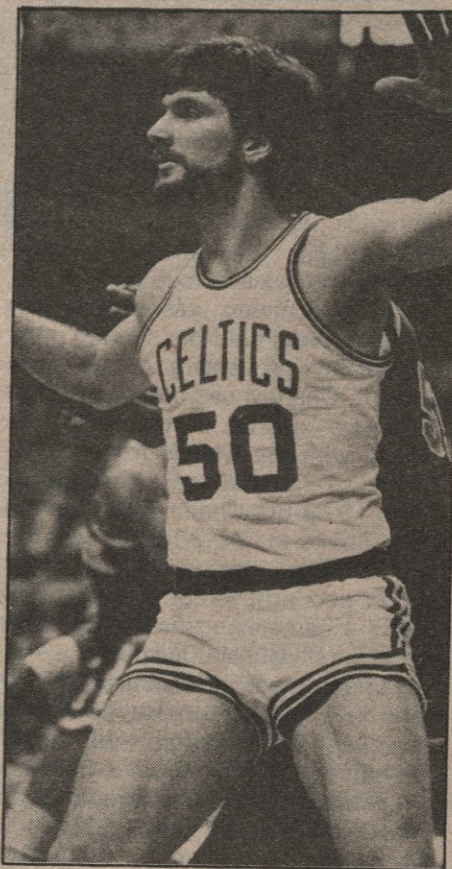
Washington (Celtics Record, 7-1). We are coming off a competitive victory over the Indiana Pacers, a team we will play tomorrow night in Indianapolis. And we start off very strong against the Bullets; Robert Parish, Kevin McHale, and Danny Ainge score quickly and we jump ahead by twelve before the 1st quarter is over. Offensively and defensively we play some of our best ball of the year--until we suddenly lost our momentum, our concentration.

Nobody was happy with that. You never want to see that happen. I didn't play; with a lead like we had (28 points in the 3rd), I thought I would get in.

You want to contribute. You like to see these big leads happen. If we win big, it's an opportunity to be involved, to play. For me, everybody especially wins that way.

At Indiana (8-1). Indiana always seems to play well against us; they have a group of talented young players, with Stipanovich a muscular type underneath, Herbie Williams' versatility, Clark Kellogg, Vern Fleming, ect.

But Indiana's fired up play against us is nothing different. Around the league, teams play well against the Celtics. We executed well in this game, too; except for letting them



Greg Kite: Whatever it takes to win.

control their offensive board. And late, we made a few key turnovers, something you can't allow to happen in a close game. Kellogg fought us off for the game-winner (at the buzzer) and scored--with an offensive rebound. Almost appropriate. I played about five minutes, one in the first half against Stuart Gray, then four at the end of the 3rd quarter against Waymon Tisdale.

Working versus Tisdale, I backed him up and scored with a left-handed hook, a shot I've worked on repetitively in practice. If you work a lot on a shot or a move, it comes more natural. The "left hand" is an effective one for any big man around the basket. It works in traffic or over big guys inside. It's to my advantage to improve and show new shots.

We were disappointed with the loss, especially since it ended our 8-game winning streak. We wanted to keep it going. But there were reasons, although losing never feels right. And Indiana is a tough place to get to, besides. It's a three-hour trip from Boston, including a stopover in Pittsburgh. A long plane ride and a loss are an unpleasant circumstance.

Jenny, my wife, made the trip out here with me. We have family in Indianapolis (my sister and her family and cousins). There was no practice the following day (Sunday) so we stayed over until late that day. We all have separate professions; my cousin manages a Church warehouse, another cousin is in computer design, ect. Nothing special about being a pro player with my family. They've watched me compete on every level, always enjoyed

watching. I'm the same person now that I was then. It was good seeing them.

Practices. I try and supplement formal practice with as much three-on-three play as I possibly can. Or do extra shooting and running. But the informal games are the most fun. Frequently you hear that professional players think of the game as a job. But we love to play, for the sake of the game. Jimmy Rodgers and Chris Ford play, whoever feels like playing gets into the games. It's freelance, plenty of running and fast-paced basic play. I know guys in the pros who'll go to play-grounds to keep on playing. Just go down and play pickup games.

Utah was our next opponent, and Fred Roberts, a backup forward on the Jazz, is a former teammate of Danny Ainge and myself at Brigham Young. We went to the Ainges for dinner and talked about the way things are now. We don't reminisce much; rather, we pay more attention to what's going on with us now. Roberts isn't playing much now although he had finished up their season strong last year. He's unhappy; everybody wants to play up here, but they drafted Karl Malone last season after having drafted Thurl Bailey the year before.

Utah (8-2). The Jazz are playing very well and they nearly surprised us at home. Looking back, they were playing in character. They went on to win three straight games on their road trip, and continued a winning streak back in Utah.

I played briefly, spotted against Steve Hayes and Mark Eaton to give Kevin and Robert strategic rests.

A relief role means you have to be ready. You're only in there 2-3 minutes normally. You think of one thing; go all out and work as hard as you possibly can.

What the coaches are looking for in that situation are fundamentals, sound and solid play, and eliminating mistakes.

Philadelphia (9-2). I got four minutes against the Sixers, taking Charles Barkley and Terry Catledge. I felt I did pretty well, mostly in positioning. But against both Utah and Philadelphia, the team didn't move the ball well, or move without the ball well. But we won, and it is always satisfying to beat Philly.

The Green Team played for a few minutes; the Sixers increased a small lead over us during our time out there. The Green team is the group which is named because we play the starters in practice, wearing green jerseys. In games, K.C. wants us to make few mistakes and execute the offense. We'll go out and do well; we'll get good shots, and at times, execute the offense better than the regulars. But we're aware: we're

coming in cold and we won't be playing a long time. It's demanding for these reasons.

At New York (9-2). We played the Knicks the following night, another back to back pair of games. November wasn't bad though, and every team has 25-26 of these scheduled per year, because of problems scheduling arenas. It isn't ideal, but you adjust.

The Knicks probably played their best game of the season against us. They hustled and scrapped and Rory Sparrow shot the ball super. They came at us hard all night. You can see the potential of Patrick Ewing.

I'm asked if I see a "super" rookie like Ewing and myself as dramatic opposites; i.e., examples of how different roles--and fates--exist in the pro game. The answer's no, and I don't think about it. Patrick's a great player and whatever he can get, money or otherwise, great for him. He'll make the Knicks competitive, he's in New York.

We flew home from New York late Saturday night and I was glad to spend Sunday in Boston. The game takes me out often, but I still view Sunday as a day for Church, worship, and family. I still like to look at Sunday as a break from the things of the world.

At Philadelphia (10-2). A big game for the Sixers. But we started well; despite their rally in the middle quarters, the starters played cohesively down the stretch for the win. I played briefly. Not very well, unfortunately.

Detroit (11-2). The Vinnie and Larry show. Larry Bird had 47 points and it was reassuring to see. He's been off on his shooting but he's still capable of playing well. I'm hoping this will begin one of his streaks, like he usually does. Shooting's a funny thing.

Vinnie Johnson: "Microwave". As in, he'll heat you up quick. Vinnie burned us last year in the playoffs, and he repeated that performance. We won, but not before they took us to the final minute. Vinnie ended up with 35 and the game was one of the most entertaining of the year.

Role-Playing. One of the most difficult requirements in my position is not being able to bounce back. Against Philly, I played a few minutes and didn't play effectively. I didn't play at all against Detroit.

I'm always keeping in mind my main purpose for being here: to win. And to be a role player.

I want to contribute, to do whatever it takes to win, to do whatever the coaches ask me.

Since there are discouraging moments, it's necessary to keep working hard, to give 100%. If I do that, I can't ask myself for anything more. A lot of the game is mental. You work on that on your own. Keep the mind tuned up.

I tell myself continually: See yourself doing well. And add hard work.

George Hecht is a Rare Commodity

By David Zuccaro

George Hecht is a rare commodity. Few of us can claim to have the wide spectrum of interests as he. If this self-proclaimed devotee of rock n' roll music was a basketball coach, he could teach his students a lesson from his knowledge of the game that would have Dr. Naismith (if he were still among us) imploring to be enrolled in the class.

"I love their version of Gene Autrey's 'Happy Trails' " says Hecht of the group Van Halen, the metal-maniacs that are his favorite. "Their singer (David Lee Roth) looks marvelous and his rendition of Louie Armstrong's 'Just A Gigolo' is totally awesome," says the new-wave man who's aided the Boston Celtics in various capacities on a continuous basis since 1952.

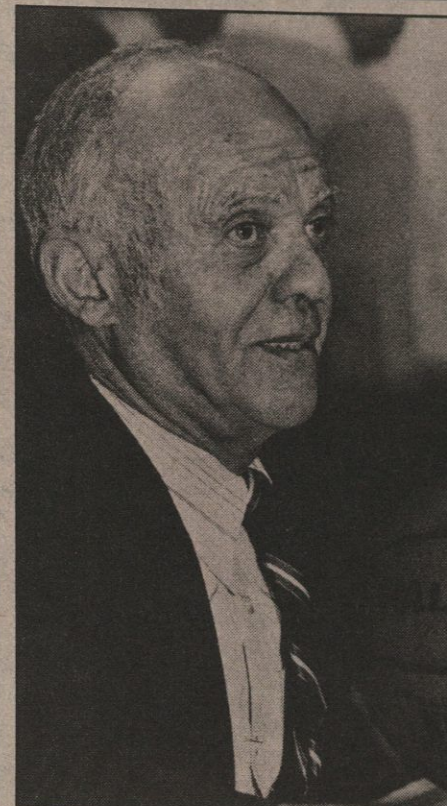
"I knew Howie McHugh (Celtics' original publicist) from Melrose where we both lived. He asked me if I'd like to help Tommy McCarthy in the upper press box at the Garden. I couldn't refuse the chance. I delivered stats to the media during the games," described Hecht of his original duties before becoming a member of the minor officials staff in 1969. Being a lifetime resident of Melrose helped George tremendously in his life in and away from basketball.

I remember them all (the Championships), from the first one in 1957...to the last.

Hecht continues: "I began to keep minutes the same year that Tommy (Heinsohn) became head coach with Boston. When Howie asked me if I was interested in logging minutes, I looked at it as a promotion of sorts, so I obliged."

If a historian is needed for information on the NBA's development and more specifically the Celtics, Hecht would be a wise choice. He has the envious distinction of witnessing every championship that has been won in the historic building that houses the parquet floor. "I remember them all. From the first one in 1957 - Bill Russell's rookie year to the last one in 1984. They (the championships) were all very special for different reasons." Hecht's next opine should come to no one's surprise: "With no offense to anyone, I would have to say that Russell was the greatest center of all-time and that Larry Bird is the greatest all-around player in history." Hecht blurs in tribute to the Green.

With the success that the



George Hecht: from Happy Trails

Dynasty-laden Celtics have had, it was hard for George to pinpoint the most memorable game during his duty. "Bob Cousy's 50-point effort in 4-ot's against Syracuse in 1953 ranks up there. So does the triple-ot game vs. the Suns in 1976. Red's weekend last year was also special for the obvious reasons."

That weekend was that of January 4-5, 1985, when the past and present of Celtics' folklore gathered to pay homage to Red Auerbach, the teams' father figure. "It was a great feeling to see all the ex-players. Most of them recognized me and we reminisced about the past. Sam Jones, Sharman, Russell, Jo Jo, Ramsey, Embry - all of them, I don't want to leave any of them out. It was an undecipherable thrill. I kept minutes in the 'Legends Game,' some players showed they could still play and others, well....," Hecht says amusingly.

Not all was fun and games for George, however, in his stay with the Celtics. In 1982, he was operated on for cancer. "The Celtics showed

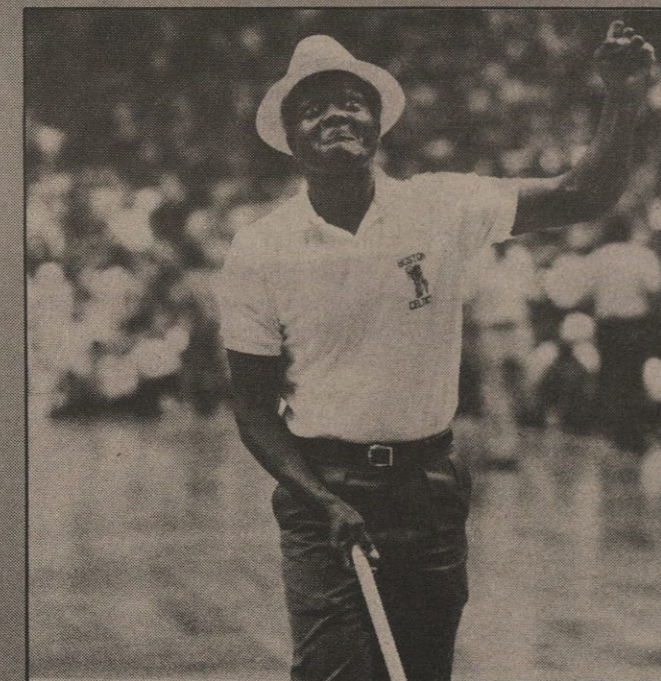
their class when I was in the hospital for 5-6 weeks. They always called to see how I was doing. Every one associated with the front office displayed class, from the people who've been there to the newer workers. I'll always be grateful for the opportunity to work here and be associated with such people."

I'll always remember Red lighting up his cigar because that meant victory was imminent.

When the Celtics are not playing, Hecht officiates in another manner. He holds the yard-markers at Melrose High School football games, something he has done for the last 45 years. The Celtics are his number one love however.

"I'll always remember Red lighting up his cigar because that meant the victory was imminent." After all, that is what being associated with the Celtics is all about - winning!

Who is Basketball's Answer to the Zamboni Machine?



Our version of Spiderman has become a fixture in Boston.

By Steve Lipofsky

There's a man who has been gliding across the parquet at Boston Garden since Lyndon Johnson was President and Bill Russell was player coach of the Celtics. Though he's familiar to long time ticket holders, those of you who watch the games on television have probably never heard of him. That's because the T.V. invariably goes to a commercial the moment he takes the floor.

He's known as Spider, and bet-

ween every quarter he will traverse the floor with an oversized mop to prepare the surface for the players return. He's basketball's answer to the Zamboni Machine.

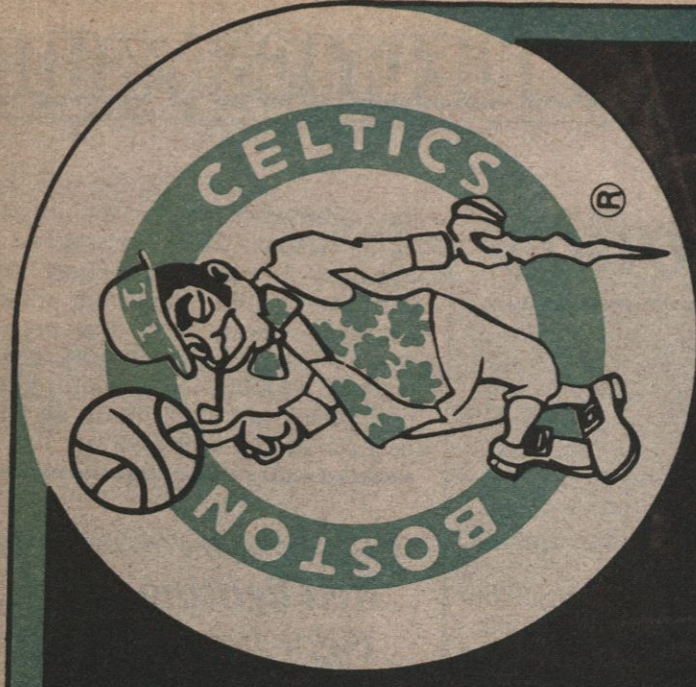
Our Spidermans real identity is Rudolph Edwards, born March 28, 1928 in Philadelphia. Spider came to work at the Garden 18 year ago. As is tradition in Boston, he got the job through a relative, his uncle. Spider is as much a part of the ambience of the old building as the flags hanging from the rafters. His good nature and im-

pish expression make him almost seem as if he's the Leprechaun sprung to life from the center of the parquet.

His job title is Porters Supervisor, and on days when the Bruins practice during the day and the Celts play at night he can be at work from 7 a.m. through 7 a.m. the next day. He works 60 to 90 hours a week readying the building for each event.

Spider lives in Jamaica Plain with his wife Elizabeth and his four children and three step children.





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Celtics Confidential

By Bob Schron

Several Celtics have made appearances locally and in the greater Boston metropolitan area. **Scott Wedman** appeared at the Ashland News Store to celebrate the opening of that store's bakery, Mehitables. ... **Robert Parish** was the guest deejay on the morning show of radio station WILD, Boston, an appearance arranged by Sports Director Willie Maye. ... **Bill Walton** was on hand as Harvey's Audio Video Unlimited opened in Medford. ... Dennis Johnson will be another morning host on WILD, December 10.

John Havlicek attended the November 15th contest against the Bullets and the clash against the Sixers, November 22nd. He was a post-game visitor in the Sixers locker room to meet with **Julius Erving**. Erving feels the Sixers continue to be in a Pre-Season stage. "We are depending on two new players, because of Andrew Toney's injury and operation, and the trade of Clint Richardson. Bobby Jones missed the first part of the season, and that set us back."

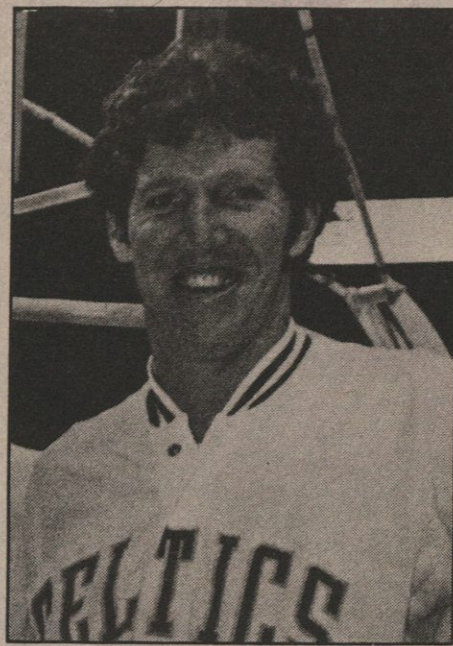
"The Celtics are always formidable; now they seem to be able to hurt you two ways. Besides their post-up game, I've never seen them move the ball better in their passing game."

Richie Adubato, Assistant Coach of the Knicks noted that Bernard King's return to the lineup is uncertain, and that "he is communicating with Dave (Debusscherre), not with the coaching staff."

Jimmy Rodgers, Celtics Assistant Coach recently selected King on an informal All-Opponent Team. King and **James Worthy** were forwards, **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar**, Center, and **Isiah Thomas** and **Michael Jordan** were guards. "But I still believe our Celtics team—Bird, McHale, Parish, D.J., Danny, et.al. belong with any. As great as these stars are, 'people-wise', there aren't any better than our guys."

Wedman was recently elected into the University of Colorado Hall of Fame. The Harper, Kansas native averaged 16.7 ppg in four varsity seasons from 1970-74.

David Brisson, writer, was completing interviews for the story he wrote about K.C. Jones for the Boston Herald Magazine. Bill Walton told him, "K.C.'s approach is to talk about the philosophy of the team we're playing. He knows we're veterans, that this team is experienced and very highly motivated on their own. (Therefore) it's important for the coach of this team to be on

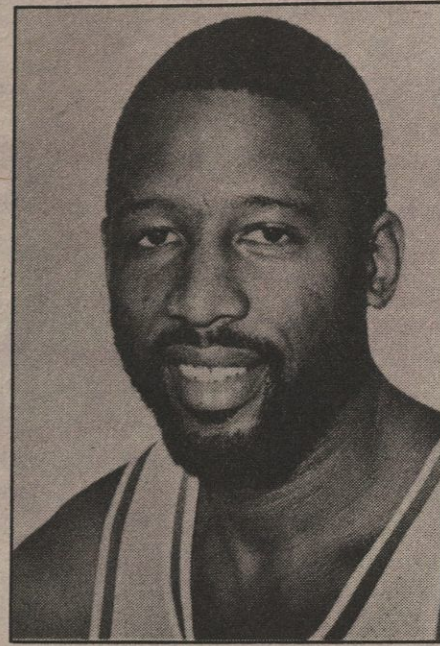


Walton: frequent foul trouble.

top of every situation in a game, and he is. He does it consistently—he senses in us what it is we're doing wrong as a team and he is able to communicate this to us. A good coach is like a good doctor. A doctor is only as good as his analysis of the problem he's working on. With little recognition, K.C.'s really excellent in these areas. He reminds me of Coach John Wooden at UCLA."

Brisson, before writing the story, said that "I need to be objective, but I like K.C. so it will be an effort to maintain this distance between writer and subject. I respect him for several reasons; he cares about what he does and he works extremely hard at it. Second, while he has his share of remorse and bitterness, he's able to rise above this and get on with his life. And third, he is an effective leader—he respects the people who work for him, he has unusual depth and inner strength, and he is able to use these qualities to lead with natural dignity and pride."

Bob Woolf, Larry Bird's agent, observes that Bird enjoys playing with Bill Walton. Woolf is relieved that Bird is finally finding his playing condition after early season problems. "But I get worried—he's beginning to play 40+ minutes again"...Bird and **Magic Johnson** filmed a sport video-style commercial last summer for Converse in French Lick, complete with stretch limo and one-on-one duels—a classic midwestern basketball showdown. It was previewed in segments by Channel 7's **John Dennis** and will air it in entirety in mid-winter... **Jeff Twiss**, Celtics Public Relations Director, promoted the team expertly after the Sixer game in the Garden November 22: He brought several pizzas for members of the fourth estate from **Halftime Pizza** on Causeway Street...Twiss's



James: A worthy opponent

former intern, Nancy Wogan, now at Allied Advertising in Boston, has been promoting films for the past six months and notes an interesting difference between film and sports audiences. "Sports is a first level vicarious experience. A viewer or listener is able to experience the game and put themselves right there. Movies are second and third level vicarious experience. The audience is viewing a writer's interpretation of an event."

"The sports fans' responses are more immediate, more emotional"...

Speaking of emotions, K.C. Jones was very animated after **Walton** had again fallen into early foul trouble against the Sixers. "Here is a man who is the most effective defensive player in the game, a player who plays textbook defense with intensity and enthusiasm," he told interviewers. "And he is consistently in foul trouble. I have no idea whatsoever why. You have to ask officials why a defensive star like Walton is suddenly foul prone."...Brandeis University is finalizing plans for a testimonial for retiring coach, **Bob Brannum**. Tentative date for the affair is March 1...

Jimmy Lynam, Assistant Coach of the 76ers, coached Walton in San Diego, and laments the past, "when Bill wasn't healthy, and the reasons for failing outnumbered the way we could succeed. But I believe Bill will do very well here. First, he will have to play less minutes; now, at this stage of Bill's career, it's a perfect role for him. Second, the supporting cast around him is superior. There's less pressure on him."...Walton concurs: "What makes the Celtics so tough is every player on the front line is a dangerous scorer."

Moses Malone commented about the Celtics: "They seem to have a real good idea about stopping our offense, as if they know what we're

about to do next. And on offense, they move into their offense quickly, within the first ten seconds on the 24-second clock. We're not going to give up against them, though..."

Charley Pierce, basketball writer for the Boston Herald, recently passed out cigars, celebrating the birth of his son, **Brendon Jacob Pierce**, 8 lb. 13 oz. ... **Bob Ryan** reported in the *Globe* **Larry Bird**, **Quinn Buckner** (of the Pacers), and **Bill Walton** drove down to French Lick, in when the Celtics played Indiana. The three engaged in a scrimmage at Bird's basketball court outside Georgia Bird's (Larry's mother) house. Buckner and Walton opposed each other in 1973 when Indiana played UCLA in the NCAA semi-final, a game UCLA narrowly won...**David Dupree**, national basketball writer for USA Today, commented that the nation-wide perception of the Celtics is "they have no real pressure on them in the Eastern Conference. Detroit has struggled, Philadelphia's weaker, and they should return to the finals."

"The Celtics never get bent out of shape. They take their time, always have a team confidence, regardless of their opponent, or where they're playing."

According to **Tom McLaughlin**, Converse representative, a hot item on sale in sporting goods stores is a new Larry Bird T-shirt. "Anything that has Larry Bird on it will sell," says McLaughlin... **Kevin McHale** appeared at several programs sponsored by Converse with McLaughlin in Boston. ... In Philadelphia, McHale was also featured at a press conference when **David Stern**, NBA Commissioner, announced that Converse was the official shoe of the league... **Beth Mackley**, a Manager at Personalities and Miller Beer in Boston, continues her work coordinating All-Star balloting in the Garden. "We conduct the voting for the first sixteen home games; although people think that it is too early to vote(saying they haven't seen all the players), it was to be done this way in order for the votes to be tabulated by February." Mackley reports there is an average of 2000 ballots per game.

Bill Russell was in attendance at the Celtics-Pistons game, November 27. **Gary St. Jean**, Bucks Assistant Coach and Massachusetts native, also attended, scouting the Pistons for the Bucks-Pistons match two nights later...Through November, the Celtics played an amazing 41 consecutive months of 500+ basketball...

Happy Birthday Jerry Sichting, November 29, and **Larry Bird**, December 7. Both were 29 years old.

November 20, at Boston
Celtics 115, Utah 106

The Jazz had an 86-79 lead early in the fourth quarter, but the Celtics fought back to win in overtime. It was the sixth straight win at the Garden this season without a loss for Boston.

Center **Robert Parish** sank four free throws in the first minute of the extra session to give the Celtics the cushion they needed. Parish, who has been playing extremely well this season, wound up with 25 points and 17 rebounds. **Larry Bird** scored 25 points, and **Kevin McHale** and **Dennis Johnson** had 22 apiece.

Jazz forward **Adrian Dantley** was the game's high scorer with 32 points. **Thurl Bailey** came off the bench to score 18 for Utah.

November 22, at Boston
Celtics 110, Philadelphia 103

The Celtics had just 10 players available—**Dennis Johnson** was attending his grandmother's funeral and **Bly Williams** was recovering from minor surgery—but still had enough manpower to down their Atlantic Division arch-rivals.

Boston guard **Danny Ainge** scored 14 of his 18 points in the second half. Ainge's desperation shot early in the fourth quarter to beat the 24-second clock broke an 87-87

Celtics 115, Jazz 106

UTAH					BOSTON				
	G	FT	T			G	FT	T	
Dantley	14-28	4	32	McHale	8-15	6	22		
Malone	8-15	1	17	Bird	10-25	6	27		
Eaton	6-10	0	12	Parish	7-10	11	25		
Stockin	5-8	4	14	Johnson	10-23	2	22		
Hansen	1-4	0	2	Ainge	4-8	2	10		
Bailey	7-16	4	18	Walton	0-3	0	0		
Green	4-11	1	9	Schling	1-4	0	2		
Scurry	0-1	2	2	Widm	2-6	1	5		
Hayes	0-1	0	0	Carlsle	1-2	0	2		
Total	45-94	16	106	Total	43-97	28	115		

Utah.....28 21 21 24 6-106
Boston.....29 29 19 23 15-115

Three-point goals—Bird Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Utah 55 (Eaton 13), Boston 60 (Parish 17). Assists—Utah 27 (Stockton 8), Boston 24 (Ainge 7). Total fouls—Utah 27, Boston 20. Technical fouls—Utah team (illegal defense). Att—14,890.

Celtics 110, 76ers 103

PHILADELPHIA					BOSTON				
	G	FT	T			G	FT	T	
Erving	9-20	2	21	McHale	11-21	10	32		
Barkley	1-7	1	3	Bird	5-16	1	11		
Malone	5-11	11	21	Parish	8-13	4	20		
Thurtt	9-14	0	18	Schling	2-7	2	6		
Cheks	6-11	5	17	Ainge	8-12	2	18		
Clnsn	1-1	0	2	Vicent	0-1	0	0		
Bjnes	2-3	0	4	Walton	2-6	0	4		
Tmson	2-6	3	7	Widm	5-11	2	12		
Cleldg	5-9	0	10	Carlsle	3-3	1	7		
Wood	0-3	0	0	Kite	0-0	0	0		
Total	40-85	22	103	Total	44-90	22	110		

Philadelphia.....22 34 22 25-103
Boston.....23 28 31 28-110

Three-point goals—Erving Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 41 (Malone 10), Boston 62 (Parish 12). Assists—Philadelphia 22 (Cheeks 9), Boston 29 (Bird 6). Total fouls—Philadelphia 24, Boston 22. Technical fouls—Philadelphia team (illegal defense), Boston team (illegal defense). Att—14,890.

Celtics 113, Knicks 104

BOSTON					NEW YORK				
	G	FT	T			G	FT	T	
Bird	6-21	6	18	Cnne	7-13	6	20		
McHale	7-14	11	25	Wilkins	5-13	0	10		
Parish	11-21	5	27	Ewing	9-20	0	18		
Ainge	4-7	3	11	Sprw	12-14	2	27		
Schling	3-5	0	6	Walker	2-8	0	4		
Walton	2-4	1	5	Bnestr	3-5	0	6		
Carlsle	3-4	0	6	Tucker	4-8	0	8		
Widm	4-4	1	9	Orr	3-4	3	9		
Vicent	3-6	0	6	Cofield	0-2	0	0		
Kite	0-0	0	0	Thrntn	0-2	2	2		
Total	43-86	27	113	Total	46-85	13	104		

Boston.....35 32 28 21-113
New York.....34 30 18 21-104

Three-point goals—Sparrow Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Boston 57 (Parish 12), New York 38 (Cummings and Ewing 10). Assists—Boston 27 (Bird 10, New York 28 (Sparrow 13). Total fouls—Boston 21, New York 25. Technical fouls—Walker, New York Coach Brown. Att—15,551.

tie, and sent the Celtics on a 10-0 spurt. That run broke the game open.

Kevin McHale led all scorers with 32 points, totally outplaying 76ers forward **Charles Barkley**. **Robert Parish** had 20 points and 12 rebounds, **Julius Erving** and **Moses Malone** scored 21 points apiece for Philly.

November 23, at New York
Celtics 113, New York 104

The Celtics got their first look at rookie center **Patrick Ewing**, and he was impressive, scoring 18 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. But he couldn't offset the performance of Celtics big men **Kevin McHale** and **Robert Parish**.

Parish, playing as sharply as any center in the NBA during the first few games of the year, had 27 points and 12 rebounds. McHale chipped in with 25 points. Boston outrebounded the Knicks, 57-38.

Knicks guard **Rory Sparrow** made 12 of 14 shots from the floor, enroute to a 27-point performance. Power forward **Pat Cummings** scored 20 points and pulled in 10 boards.

November 26, at Philadelphia
Celtics 98, Philadelphia 91

The Celtics used air-tight defense in the fourth quarter—limiting the 76ers to just 15 points—to register a come-from-behind win. **Kevin McHale** scored 20 points for Boston, six of which came in the final stanza. **Dennis Johnson** added 20 for the Celts, and center **Robert Parish** had a Boston-high 22. **Larry Bird** had 16 points and 11 assists.

Philadelphia, which led 84-76 before the Celtics scored 12 straight points to open the fourth quarter, got 24 points from forward **Charles Barkley**. The loss of Philly's third straight and fourth in the last five games.

"We played good team ball," forward **Bobby Jones** said, "good team defense. Unfortunately, we couldn't carry it all the way through."

Celtics 98, 76ers 91

BOSTON					PHILADELPHIA				
	G	FT	T			G	FT	T	
McHale	10-18	0	20	Erving	7-16	2	17		
Bird	6-17	4	16	Barkley	9-19	6	24		
Parish	9-15	4	22	Malne	6-14	2	14		
Johnson	9-14	2	20	Thurtt	4-10	0	8		
Ainge	2-3	0	4	Cheks	5-15	0	10		
Schling	3-4	0	6	Tmson	1-4	0	2		
Carlsle	0-1	0	0	Jones	4-4	0	8		
Walton	2-3	0	4	Cleldg	2-3	0	4		
Widm	2-2	0	4	Wood	0-0	2	2		
Kite	0-0	0	0	Johnson	1-2	0	2		
Vicent	1-1	0	2						
Total	44-81	10	98	Total	39-87	12	91		

Boston.....35 32 28 21-113
Philadelphia.....35 32 28 21-91

Three-point goals—Erving Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Boston 48 (McHale 13), Philadelphia 37 (Malone 13). Assists—Boston 25 (Bird 11), Philadelphia 26 (Cheeks 11). Total fouls—Boston 22, Philadelphia 15. Technical fouls—Boston team (illegal defense). Att—17,921.

GAME BY GAME - REVIEW

The victory gave Boston its 12th in its last 13 outings.

November 27, at Boston
Celtics 132, Detroit 124

Larry Bird, who had been mired in a shooting slump during the early part of the season, finally broke out of it against the Pistons. Bird hit 17 of 31 shots from the field and all 13 free throws to lead the Celtics past a tough Pistons club.

Bird did much more than throw in 47 points. He also grabbed a game high 12 rebounds. But it was Bird's shooting which was most gratifying to Coach K.C. Jones.

"It was nice to see; I hadn't seen that for a while," Jones said. "He came back with a vengeance."

Said center/forward **Bill Walton**: "I see Larry every day, so the things he does don't surprise me. He's just a phenomenal player."

Kevin McHale and **Robert Parish** had 20 points apiece for the Celtics, who made 46 of 87 shots from the floor (.529). Guard **Vinnie Johnson** had 35 for Detroit, and fellow backcourter **John Long** added 25. Boston native **Bill Laimbeer** had 20 points and 8 rebounds for the Pistons.

November 29, at Boston
Celtics 94, New York 88

Celtics fans got their first regular-season look at Knick center **Patrick Ewing**, a graduate of Rindge-Latin High School in Cambridge, and Ewing responded with a 29-point night. However, that wasn't enough to stop the Celtics from winning for the 14th time in 15 games.

Larry Bird came through again, scoring 18 of his game-high 31 points in the third quarter. Bird also pulled in 15 rebounds.

The Knicks entered the game injured-plagued and slumping, but they gave the Celtics all they could handle.

"We have a very sound defensive club, and with Patrick in the lineup,

we feel we have a chance every night," New York Coach **Hubie Brown** said. "With some of our key players injured, we don't have a lot of established big scorers. However, Patrick is developing into an outstanding offensive threat."

Ewing was just glad to be home. "I spent Thanksgiving with my family," he said. "We played well enough to win, but there'll be other nights. I wasn't loose at the start, and then I made a lot of mistakes. This is a learning experience for me."

"I'm learning a lot from **Robert Parish**. He has a lot of moves. I'm also learning that they're expecting me to take jump shots. I'm going to have to go to the hoop more."

New York forward **Pat Cummings** also had an outstanding game—20 points, 13 rebounds, 3 assists.

November 30, at Atlanta
Celtics 102, Atlanta 97

Larry Bird had his third impressive offensive game in a row, shooting 13 of 23 from the field enroute to a 28-point night at the Omni. **Danny Ainge** helped out with 18 points, and **Kevin McHale** scored 16 points and grabbed a team-high eight rebounds.

The Hawks played Boston even in the second half, but the Celtics had built up a five-point edge in the first half, which proved to be the difference.

Celtics 102, Hawks 97

BOSTON					ATLANTA				
	G	FT	T			G	FT	T	
Bird	13-23	2	28	Lvnstn	4-8	4	12		
McHale	6-12	4	16	Wilkins	7-20	9	24		
Parish	3-7	3	9	Rollins	4-7	0	8		
Ainge	7-15	4	18	RWims	0-4	4	4		
Dunsm	6-13	0	12	Witmn	0-0	0	0		
Waltn	4-5	2	10	Willis	6-12	1	13		
Carlsle	1-2	0	2	Hstngs	0-0	0	0		
Schng	3-6	0	6	Kncak	4-6	0	12		
Widm	0-3	0	0	Battle	5-10	3	13		
Kite	1-0	1	1	Webb	5-10	1	11		
Total	43-86	16	102	Total	35-77	26	97		

Boston.....31 27 30 14-102
Atlanta.....21 32 30 14-97

Three-point goals—Wilkins Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Boston 45 (McHale 8), Atlanta 46 (Willis 12). Assists—Boston 29 (D. Johnson 8), Atlanta 16 (Battle 5). Total fouls—Boston 22, Atlanta 17. Technical fouls—Boston team (illegal defense). Att—13,101.

Celtics 94, Knicks 88

	G	FT	T		G	FT	T
Wilkins	2-9	0	4	McHie	4-8	10	1
Cmms	9-20	2	20	Bird	11-23	9	3
Ewing	9-21	11	29	Parish	5-11	2	2
Sprwv	5-8	0	10	Johnson	6-16	3	1
Walker	2-7	0	4	Ainge	2-8	0	0
Tucker	3-7	1	7	Waltn	3-4	1	1
Orr	4-9	0	8	Schng	2-5	0	0
Gmfd	2-7	0	4	Vncnt	0-2	0	1
Thrntn	0-1	0	0	Wdrmn	0-1	0	0
Cofeld	1-3	0	2	Kite	0-1	0	0
				Carlse	1-4	1	1
Total	37-92	14	88	Total	34-83	26	8



Eddie Gilooley

Vinnie Great, But Not Good Enough

A recent phenomenal fourth period scoring spree by Detroit's Vinnie Johnson at Boston Garden magnified the "good news" and the "bad news" of a quality scorer building his confidence and rhythm and taking control of a basketball game.

Against most teams, Vinnie's superlative performance would have spelled victory for the Pistons but in facing the Celtics, the Pistons classy guard had to contend with the defensive genius of Dennis Johnson in crunch time. As usual, the defense won.

When it became apparent Vinnie wanted the ball on every possession, Celtics coach K.C. Jones made the matchup adjustment. Vinnie already had the hot hand (they should call him microwave, said Danny Ainge after the game) but now the challenge was even greater because he had to make his clutch shots against DJ, the best defensive guard in the NBA.

In this game of giants, Vinnie is smallish even though he resembles a fullback. His huge thighs provide him with liftoff power and he skies when he launches his jumper-making it a most difficult shot to block. DJ says Vinnie's jumper is strange because he leans forward and releases very quickly.

Usually Vinnie, a solid defensive player himself, operates at the off-guard position but in this particular game with Isiah Thomas hurting on the bench, the Detroit star started and finished the Pistons offense down the stretch.

VJ fired in three straight jumpers to boost his game total to 30 points when Jones made the matchup adjustment permanent. In his first two times against DJ, Vinnie defied logic and great defense to connect on a pair of incredible jumpers, one worth three points because he was fouled on the shot.

Even though he was successful, it was obvious DJ was doing something different. While his

previous shots were smooth, these two were off-balance jumpers a little deeper than he was accustomed to earlier in the contest. DJ was picking him up quicker and taking away his options. Vinnie wasn't getting the breathing room he would have preferred. In addition, every possession was now crucial to the outcome and the pressure was increasing as the clock ticked away.

On the Pistons next possession, after the Celtics tied the game, DJ forced Vinnie to the right of the key. Rick Mahorn, battling for position in the low post against Robert Parish, stepped up to set a pick on DJ. That gave Vinnie daylight as Mahorn rolled to the hoop.

Here, the Celtics experience paid dividends. DJ alertly remained with Mahorn and Parish smartly picked up Vinnie. With Parish's long arms flustering and flailing each and every way, Vinnie dared not shoot over the seven-foot Parish who was playing him relatively tight.

Sensing the danger of a block, Vinnie opted to work the pick and roll with Mahorn who had a height advantage on DJ. Unfortunately for the Pistons, Parish stepped into the passing lane and grabbed the ball and the ballgame.

The good news (for Detroit) was that Vinnie's electrifying effort thrilled the capacity Garden crowd and kept the Pistons in the contest which was unanimously acclaimed as the best of the season at the Garden up to that point.

The bad news (for Detroit) is that you can't win in the NBA with one-on-one basketball-which the final minutes became in the Celtics-Pistons clash. When a team opts for one-on-one, the defense doesn't have to guess. They know who is going to shoot and can make the necessary adjustments when it counts.

Occasionally the Celtics will get into a rut where they will be running and gunning with little ball movement. But KC is alert and will call

time to set up some plays and get everyone involved.

The most negative aspect of one-on-one basketball is the fact the other four players fail to get involved in the offense. They have a tendency to stand around and as a result they are out of position for the rebound. They watch the shooter instead of the ball and become lulled into sluggishness.

When Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was a youngster and known as Lew Alcindor, some of his highest scoring games as center for the Milwaukee Bucks were against the Celtics but that was by design. The Celtics game plan was that if Jabbar scored 60 points, they could beat the Bucks.

The strategy was to shut down the other players, force the ball into Jabbar and let him dominate the offense. The theory being that if Jabbar made 50+ of his shots, the Celtics would rebound the majority of the misses and convert them into fast break points. Also, Jabbar would tire carrying the offense and would be ineffective on defense.

In essence, the Celtics would play strong defense against the other four players and let Dave Cowens or Hank Finkel work one-on-one against Jabbar. The strategy changed from time to time but the Celtics always felt confident against the Bucks when they were able to create the one-on-one matchup in the pivot.

Dramatically, Coach Tom Heinsohn altered the strategy in the seventh game of the championship series against the Bucks in 1974. This time the Celtics doubled and tripled teamed Jabbar and forced the Bucks to hit from the outside. At times, Jabbar couldn't even see his teammates because of the Celts coverage. That game plan resulted in the Celtics' 12th Championship banner.

In Paul Silas' first year with the Celtics, Chicago's Bob Love had a Vinnie Johnson-type game at Boston Garden scoring 22 second half points to lift the Bulls to a come-from-behind victory. Silas, renowned as an offensive rebounder, took pride in his defensive game and was admittedly embarrassed by Love's feat against him.

Fortunately for Silas, he didn't have long to wait for revenge. The Celts and Bulls met two days later in Chicago. During the flight to the Windy City, Silas explained in detail his plans for his next encounter with the high scoring Love.

"I talked it over with Satch (Tom Sanders, the Celts resident defensive genius) and he advised that I

should make it real difficult for Love on the first couple of shots so that he couldn't get into his rhythm," said Silas. "Love has a reputation as rhythm shooter and Satch said should make body contact to keep him off-balance. Not enough to create a foul but enough to let him know I'm around."

Silas was extremely intense when the game started and he was all over Bob Love. The Bulls lanky forward struggled to touch the ball. When he did, Silas left no room between him and the shooter. Love never established a rhythm and finished making only one of 12 shots. His only score was a tip in of a Chet Walker miss which occurred when Silas was resting on the bench.

Love finished with two points but Silas shut him out and had revenge for that moment. My Editor thought I was a genius because of the way I had forecast the strategy in the pre-game story in the newspaper.

In the post-game interview, Love was nonchalant and explained he had "an off night; that Silas' defense didn't bother his shooting; that it was just one of those games a player has every now and then."

Normally you'd accept that explanation from a player with Love's scoring ability but in this case I knew otherwise and was amused. Love wasn't always easy to contain but on this particular night, Silas accomplished his mission.

Then there's the games no matter how well a player is defended, the ball swishes through the hoop. Rodgers once praised Satch's defense against Elgin Baylor even though the Lakers' forward poured 61 points through the strings. "The way Elgin was playing," said Auerbach, "he would have scored 100 points if Satch wasn't guarding him."

Every player will admit there's a way to stop the great shooters but Auerbach, like Rodgers, coordinates evaluations. "Red is the answer. The best a player can hope for is to keep the ball out of the hands of the shooter. Or, get help from a teammate and force the shooter to give up the ball."

However, when a player like Vinnie Johnson, who admittedly gets pumped up facing the Celtics in the Garden, gets the hot hand you have to play him straight up and blanket him. Eventually, he'll go to the well once too often as he did against the Celtics.

Still, it's always a treat to watch Vinnie on one of his sprees, and happens often at the Garden. Someone ever packaged all of Vinnie's performances against the Celtics at the Garden, it would be titled "the greatest guard ever in the NBA."

Vinnie put on a show with his 30 points while Larry Bird was quietly scoring 47 points--his high for the season. Larry tallied his points with a variety of jumpers, layups and rebounds. A little different formula than Vinnie's one-on-one style.

Celts' Scouting System Gears Up for Collegiate Season



Jimmy Rodgers (who coordinates the scouting) and Ed Badger focus on priorities.



Badger: Scouts Nationally.



Weitzman: Covers New England.

When the Celtics selected Sam Vincent as their Number 1 choice in the collegiate draft last June, they concluded a sea-long effort which included three series of communications among these men and college coaches, and a consistent backing and input of eagle-eye President Red Auerbach.

The acquisition of Vincent, who Auerbach "never dreamed would be available" culminated three seasons of scouting by the Celtics. On draft day, the list which ranked the senior guards was revealed to Celtics.

"If I had had the chance," Ed Badger, Celtics Scout commented when, "He would have been the one I would have taken, anyway, because he can play both the point and the off-guard, he pushes the ball up the floor, is a good passer, and has more offense than the typical point guard."

The Celtics' scouting team consists of Director of Player Personnel Jimmy Rodgers, Scouts Ed Badger, Rick Weitzman, and M.L. Carr, and Red Auerbach. Rodgers' role, until tournament time, is to oversee and coordinate the program. Badger scouts nationally from Cincinnati, and Weitzman views games in New England. Carr's role is to be determined. Auerbach reviews talent mainly on the Atlantic Coast Conference and the Big East from Washington D.C. But Auerbach, like Rodgers, coordinates evaluations. "Red is always watching college games," of- fers Rodgers.

In recent seasons, Auerbach has seemingly shifted into another gear in the scouting area. In 1978, he drafted Larry Bird as a junior-eligible. When you're waiting for a player like Larry Bird," Auerbach has said, "Time passes quickly."

In 1980, he made a dramatic attempt to secure Ralph Sampson when he was at the University of Virginia. "He's better than Abdul-Jabbar at this stage," Red noted then. "By far."

When that attempt failed, Red collaborated with (then) owner Harry Mangurian and Bill Fitch to draft Kevin McHale.

"Red liked Kevin for a long time before he drafted him," remembered Bird.

Last season Auerbach and General Manager Jan Volk made two moves. They traded Gerald Henderson to Seattle for the Sonics' 1st choice in the 1986 draft; this selection may be included in the NBA's lot-

tery process. Later in the year, the Celtics switched draft positions with the Dallas Mavericks. Thus, Boston drafted 20th instead of 24th. With the exchange, Boston was able to choose their most preferred player.

"We keep a file on players who impress us for as long as they are in school," points out Rodgers. This can start in a number of ways--a scout may see an underclass player when he is watching another player.

A college coach may tell one of us about a player he is either coaching, or coaching against. These players are the ones who will receive the most attention when we begin compiling our lists for the year.

"This year there are about 15 players who are our top priority. This could change, depending on what

place after mid-December.

"We'll communicate two or three times a week," says Rodgers.

The Celtics' scouting reports are augmented by services such as superscout Marty Blake's, and, now, by the availability of games on cable and satellite television. Rodgers will utilize the latter extensively until tournaments begin.

"During tournament time, it's an opportunity to see several players at one time. Also, I believe I can see more of a player's abilities live; in essence, to complete or refute the impressions I may already have."

"There are certain qualities the player should ideally have for him to fit our system:

- 1---His talent must be relevant to our system and our needs
- 2---The player should be team-oriented
- 3---Intelligence; competitiveness; durability
- 4---Innate talent
- 5---Some consideration of the type of program he played in. The level of competition he faced.

Vincent ranked first on the guard list last June, followed by Joe Dumars of McNeese State, Terry Porter of Wisconsin--Steve Point, and Steve Harris of Tulsa. Dumars, Harris, and Vincent were taken 18th, 19th, and 20th, by Detroit, Houston, and Boston. Portland selected Porter as the final choice in the first round.

"I had seen Vincent several times on film after Ed had scouted him; I was also aware of him the last few years," recalls Rodgers. "We had certain priorities if a guard was available (versatility, quickness, etc.) But at our number in the draft, if any of ten or twelve players were obtainable, we would have taken him, regardless of what position he played."

The Celtics considered Alfredrick Hughes, the shooting guard from Loyola (Ill.), but San Antonio chose him 14th in the first round. "We thought Vincent would be the first guard going," commented K.C. Jones then. Prospects therefore appear bright for the Celtics. They have Vincent; they have the possible lottery choice in the 1986 draft from Seattle.

Yet there is an atmosphere of unpredictability. "Look at Rick Carlisle--an NBA level player who slipped down into a later (3rd)round. Or a Carlos Clark, later still."

"Then there is the matter of realizing your potential. Mental strength is an absolute necessity for a young pro. There's no real way to measure that until the player is actually here," concludes Rodgers.



Glenn Ordway

Have you Noticed?

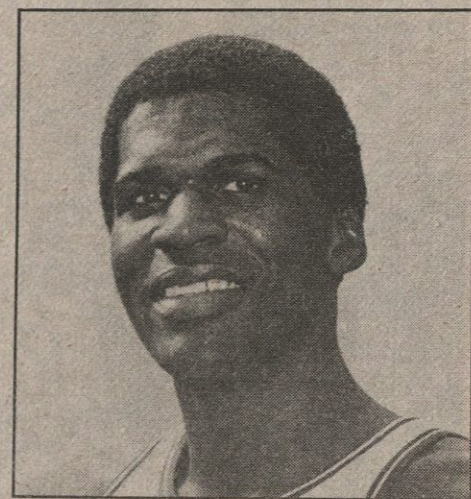
HAVE YOU NOTICED that Robert Parish has dominated play in the middle at both ends of the court? There's no doubt that Bill Walton's presence has helped the Chief's game tremendously. Instead of mentally and physically pacing his 40 plus minutes. He is able to play tenacious defense from the opening gun knowing that a rest period is not more than eight minutes away. And fouls no longer play into his game. Last year Robert would be forced to pull back the reins after picking up his fourth personal. This year, he's able to keep the throttle open knowing that there are twelve more fouls for his position with Bill Walton and Greg Kite sitting on the bench. Maybe now, fans in Boston will finally appreciate what this guy means to this team. If the All-Star voting were to end today, he would be my hands down pick to be the East starting center.

HAVE YOU NOTICED that only three teams in the league have winning records on the road? Two factors play into this statistic...home crowds and officials. A loud raucous crowd seems to inject confidence in a home team. The opposite holds true on the road especially for a young club when the fans are screaming in joy for every mistake by the visitors. And don't believe for a moment that the officials are not affected by these outbursts of emotion.

HAVE YOU NOTICED that the NBA is using a trimmed down backboard this year? In an effort to curb injuries in the pit, they have trimmed six inches off the bottom of the glass boards. It gives the illusion of a much smaller back drop. But I have yet to hear a player use it as an excuse for a 2 for 11 shooting night. It seems to have added to a more active game in the trenches due to the additional working space.

HAVE YOU NOTICED that the Dallas Mavericks have spent their entire existence searching for a center? You would think that with all the draft

picks they have amassed over their five year existence, that they would have at least a steady body in the pivot. but noooo! Kurt Nimphius, Wallace Bryant, Sam Perkins, Bill Wennington, Ewe Blab and James Donaldson have all toiled in the center spot this year alone. We're talking



Parish is dominating.

about a five week period here gang. And to top it off, Nimphius and Bryant are no longer on the roster. Maybe they'll give BC's Ron Crevier a shot.

HAVE YOU NOTICED that teams with bad win-loss records are always changing their uniform design. They're probably hoping that repeat fans won't recognize them from the previous year's team.

HAVE YOU NOTICED that people have been very quick to bury the great Boston-Philadelphia rivalry? After the Celtics disposed of the Sixers twice in a week and Vinnie Johnson and the Pistons wore out the Boston Garden net strings in a tight battle, many started to play taps for one of sports most cherished traditional battles. Granted the Sixers have their problems. But we're still talking about a team that possesses enough talent to win 50 plus games. And remember come January they expect to have Celtics killer Andrew Toney back in the lineup. Don't throw your "I HATE PHILLY" pin away yet.



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BASKETBALL TIMES COLLEGE INSIGHT

By Larry Donald

A number of stories on the recruiting of 6-10 center Roy Tarpley by the University of Michigan have been making the rounds, but none are quite accurate. Although Tarpley was something of a late bloomer, he certainly wasn't unknown to college recruiters. The mistakes most made was in not knowing where he stood in high school. A Detroit reporter recalls phoning Tarpley's coach at Detroit's Cooley High. He mentioned how good the team would be with the big guy around for two more years. "Actually," said the coach, "Roy's a senior." The writer phoned then Michigan assistant Don Sicko (now with Detroit as head coach) to ask about Tarpley. "Yeh," replied Sicko, "he's a nice junior. We like him." "Wrong," said the writer, "he's a nice senior." Sicko did some fast checking and sure enough Tarpley, who'd moved around frequently with his family, was a senior. Michigan moved quickly and signed him before anyone else discovered his class status...

When LSU coach Dale Brown arrived in a Santo Domingo home for a very illegal summer meeting with Tito Horford he had a plan. "What I did was put a phone in the middle of the bed and took a seat on one side of the bed. Tito would have sat on the other side. That way, technically, I could say I was talking over the phone to him. Sick, huh?...Just a sign of the times..."

Terry Mills, a 6-10 senior at Romulus, MI High signed with Michigan and a few days later the Detroit Free Press ran an indepth look at his recruitment. It was not bad by comparison to the Horford recruitment, but it wasn't pretty either. Among those coming away with a black eye was Iowa's George Raveling, who sent Mills a letter last summer saying he no longer wished to recruit the youngster. Earlier Mills' coach, Al Wilkerson, alleged that Raveling and Robert Royal, a friend of the coach who lived in Detroit, may have violated NCAA rules in the recruitment of Mills. According to Wilkerson, Royal asked, "what it would take to get Terry Mills to Iowa." Raveling doesn't deny hearing the statement, nor instructing Royal to ask the question. "I always feel kids out when I go out," Raveling told the Free Press. "One of the things I find out is whether they expect anything. If they are looking for something, I back out."

On it goes...

Louisville got my nod as the nation's number one basketball team for several reasons. One, Milt Wagner's healthy. Two, Denny Crum has his finest recruiting class ever. And three, after last year's struggling

19-18 everyone has returned to the realization that success isn't automatic. Fourth, Crum has a habit of getting his team tournament ready and there are some fundamental similarities to this team and the National Champions of 1980...

Eddie Sutton scored a much

needed victory when he signed Kentucky's best player, Rex Chapman of Owensboro. Now all he's got to do is find someone to replace Kenny Walker, who just might be recalled as the best ever in Lexington.

The five best college players you've never heard of? Miami of Ohio's Ron Harper, Oklahoma's Anthony Bowie, Georgia's Joe Ward, Chicago Loyola's Andre Moore and John Salley of George Tech.

My pal Van Coleman is one of the top schoolboy scouts and here's how he rates the top five prep players. In the middle it's J.R. Reid of Virginia. The forwards are Terry Mills of Michigan and Chris Brooks of Virginia. At guard he likes Kentucky's Rex Chapman and Rumeal Robinson of Massachusetts. Wonder how those five will stack up when it comes All-American selection time in five years?...

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FREE COOLER RENTAL

NBA Notebook

By Terry Lyons

It's been said that NBA head coaches wear many hats. Sometimes they're asked to be businessmen, sometimes they might be doctors or counselors and other times they're asked to be fortune tellers or miracle workers. In Los Angeles, Lakers Coach **Pat Riley** has been practicing as a chemist. "Maybe the biggest thing this team has going for it is its chemistry," says Riley, who has found the proper combinations resulting in his club's best start since it was known as the Minneapolis Lakers. "The players on this team have been blending together for a long time. It's on and off the court. They know each other very well, understand each other and like each other. During a game, they can almost sense what the other players are going to do." ...**Dave Wohl**, the former assistant coach of the Lakers who is now head coach for the New Jersey Nets, has special insight into the Pacific Division leaders. "When I was with the Lakers," said Wohl, "we'd look at (game) tapes and see a lot of little things we did wrong. Now that I'm coaching against them, I watch tapes of the Lakers and I don't find any weaknesses. They don't do anything wrong. They're awesome." ...Who was the highest player drafted not to make an NBA roster? Former Virginia Commonwealth guard **Calvin Duncan**, drafted by Cleveland (second round, 30th overall) and traded to Chicago along with forward **Charles Oakley** for center **Keith Lee** and guard **Ennis Whatley**, was tendered a contract by the Bulls but never signed...Of the 12 players on the New York Knicks roster, three are former fourth round draft choices (**Rory Sparrow**, **Bob Thornton** and **Fred Cofield**) and one is a seventh round pick (**Ken Banister**)...Seattle's **Xavier McDaniel** has a line of basketball shoes called the "X-Press."

Besides being the hometown of three current NBA head coaches (**John Bach-Warriors**, **Frank Layden-Jazz** and **Doug Moe-Nuggets**), Brooklyn, N.Y. has bred several NBA players over the years. Among them are **World B. Free** of the Cleveland Cavaliers (from the Brownsville section) and rookie **Carey Scurry** of the Utah Jazz (from the Bedford-Stuyvesant section). Free returns to Brooklyn during the NBA offseason and says he enjoys blending back in his old neighborhood even though it's getting rougher and rougher all the time. "I'm respected there, very, very much," said Free of Brownsville. "That's something I've wanted all my life. Just to be respected. That's all."...**Scurry**, the former LIU star, is

hoping to make his family more comfortable now that he's made it to the NBA. "We weren't poor," said Scurry as he described his days growing up, "but we never had any money."...The NBA announced during the annual meetings last June that applications would be accepted for expansion. Since that time, the league has been approached by groups from **Miami, Tampa-St. Petersburg, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Charlotte, St. Louis, Toronto, Kansas City and Santa Ana**. Formal applications have been received from both Miami and Santa Ana...Dallas forward **Mark Aguirre** has been asked to take on the responsibilities of being a leader on his club. The fifth-year forward was asked how he rated himself among NBA players at the same position. "Now, I don't want to sound too cocky," said Aguirre, "but I'd say I'm in the top four. That would be fair. There's a lot of great players out there. I've always wanted to be the best, be on top. But what happens is that ego gets in the way. I think that was the problem," Aguirre said of his days at DePaul in Chicago. "I was supposed to be great, the best who ever dribbled the ball. It made me hyper. What I've learned is to be patient, to observe and enjoy the world without that ego getting in the way. To have some peace of mind."

Detroit Pistons frontliner **Rick Mahorn** has a certain feeling about the section of the court he calls home. "That area down there is mine," says Mahorn. "You don't want anybody to come knocking on your door and rip off your home, right? That's how I feel about the paint. I own that. Nobody is going to take it away."...Denver Nuggets assistant coach **Allan Bristow** was asked if rookie **Blair Rasmussen** was considered a "project." "I hate the word," said Bristow rather emphatically. "If I was a player and somebody called me a 'project' I'd want to go after them. To me, that means you can't do anything. It would be the biggest insult imaginable."...When **Clint Richardson** occupied a space in the Philadelphia 76ers lockerroom, it was the cubicle next to superstar **Julius Erving**. Now that Richardson has moved on to Indiana via a trade, he dresses next to rookie **Wayman Tisdale**. Richardson, by the way, is pleased to be with the Pacers. "The players have welcomed me, the organization has certainly welcomed me. I've been treated very nicely since I first stepped off the plane, he said...One of Richardson's former teammates, **Moses Malone** of the



Pat Riley: Chemical Specialist.

Sixers, rides a stationary bicycle for 20 to 30 minutes after each practice. "It's hard work," says Malone. "Suicide." To which a team trainer responded, "But see the fat burn away?" Malone shot back, "I see my heart fall out."...**Manute Bol** of Washington can't seem to understand all the attention he gets when he's making the rounds with his club. "I'm a nice looking guy," says the 7-6 Bol, "but this is ridiculous."...Was there a ring jinx this season? Seems the LA Lakers lost their home opener to the Cavs the night they received their NBA Championship rings. Then, former Laker assistant coach and current New Jersey Coach **Dave Wohl** and the Nets lost to the Lakers (Nov. 17) when Wohl was presented his ring. The string continued when the Clippers lost to their cross-town rivals Nov. 20 when **Jamaal Wilkes** picked up his ring. The burning question remains...Did former Laker and free agent **Bob McAdoo** get his ring yet? ("Yes," said a Lakers spokesman, "by U.P.S.")

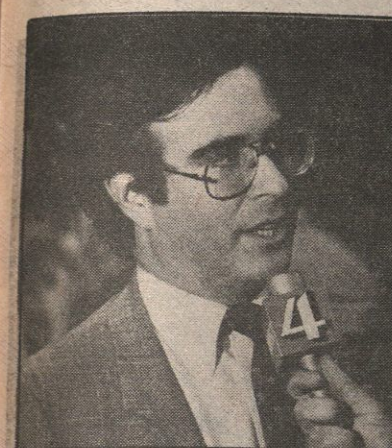
Over the Thanksgiving weekend, LA Clippers guard **Derek Smith** had a special dinner for several underprivileged children from a local elementary school. Smith, who is recovering quite well from arthroscopic surgery on his left knee, picked up the children and brought them back to his house where his wife Monica had prepared a full traditional Thanksgiving dinner. The Clippers' guard must have helped out with the dishes, however, as his wife is only 2-3 weeks from giving birth to the couple's first child...**Ray Williams** was glad to see the Atlanta Hawks' interest in him after he was

waived by the LA Clippers during preseason. "The important thing to me is that the (Atlanta) people had the confidence in me to give me another chance," said Williams. "That feels good. The only thing in my mind now is to work hard and do whatever they ask me to do."...Atlanta Coach **Mike Fratello** on Williams: "I think you can find fault with every player in the league, if that's what you're looking to do. When we looked at Ray, we felt that his abilities and his pluses outweighed his minuses."...Denver forward **Calvin Natt** has picked up a few interesting nicknames. To his teammates, Natt is "Pit," the tough pit bull terrier who carried the team on his shoulders to the Western Conference Finals last season. To Denver Coach **Doug Moe**, whose humorous and off-beat style often includes some tongue-in-cheek quips, Natt is "Tish," for "Tissue Paper," which is easily torn and disposed. Actually, Moe thinks Natt's regular battles against a troublesome right knee might be less of a problem if he followed the conditioning programs adhered to by his coach. "See, if the guy had my body, there would be no problem," said Moe, loosening a notch on his belt. "With that crappy body he's carrying around, what do you expect?"

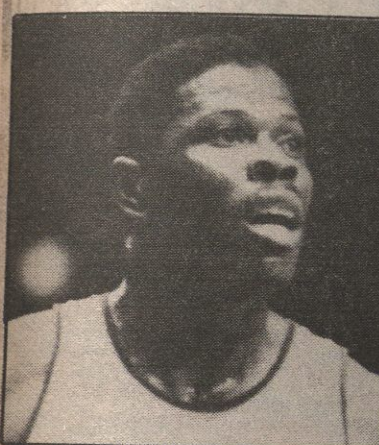
Another item for the record: In a previous NBA release, Denver's **Pete Williams** was noted as the league's youngest player. Actually, Williams' listed birthdate in his college and pro guide was incorrect, which means **Benoit Benjamin** of the LA Clippers is the NBA's "baby." He turned 21 on November 22nd.

The San Antonio Spurs have been very competitive this season despite the predicted "transition" year for the club. The reason, according to Spurs opponents, has been their stepped-up defensive game. "They are really playing as good a defense as anybody in the league," said Mavericks Coach **Dick Motta**...

Jerry "Ice" Reynolds of Milwaukee knows he won't see too much playing time as a rookie. "I had an idea that might happen when I got here," said Reynolds after his first month of limited NBA action. "**Sid (Moncrief)** told me that as a rookie, he went through it. It means a lot to know that I'm not the first one and I probably won't be the last."...**John Long**, the shooting guard of the Detroit Pistons, has gone through some changes as the club has shown improvement over the past two years. "The team has changed a lot and so has John," said **Isiah Thomas**. Now, I think it's more important to him that we just win.



Jan Volk



Patrick Ewing

General Manager **Jan Volk**, Boston Celtics: "When you're talking about the health of Larry Bird, you're talking about the health of the franchise."

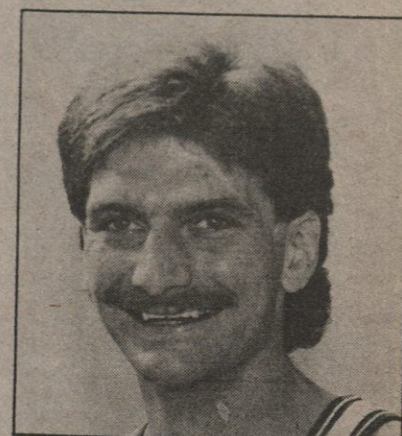
Center **Bill Walton** about Larry Bird: "People ask me how I think I help Larry's game. Believe me, the guy doesn't need much help. I guess, though, if there's one thing I might be able to do for him, it's take some of the pressure off him having to do so much rebounding. If I can do that, it'll help the fast break--and I think that's where Larry's most dangerous."

Center **Patrick Ewing**, New York Knicks, about the Celtics after the rookie's 1st game against Boston: "I wasn't playing as well as I would have liked...I didn't know what to expect from them. I didn't expect anything special. They're men, just like us. They have very deep talent."

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Bill Walton



Greg Kite

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NBA Notebook

By Terry Lyons

It's been said that NBA head coaches wear many hats. Sometimes they're asked to be businessmen, sometimes they might be doctors or counselors and other times they're asked to be fortune tellers or miracle workers. In Los Angeles, Lakers Coach **Pat Riley** has been practicing as a chemist. "Maybe the biggest thing this team has going for it is its chemistry," says Riley, who has found the proper combinations resulting in his club's best start since it was known as the Minneapolis Lakers. "The players on this team have been blending together for a long time. It's on and off the court. They know each other very well, understand each other and like each other. During a game, they can almost sense what the other players are going to do." ...**Dave Wohl**, the former assistant coach of the Lakers who is now head coach for the New Jersey Nets, has special insight into the Pacific Division leaders. "When I was with the Lakers," said Wohl, "we'd look at (game) tapes and see a lot of little things we did wrong. Now that I'm coaching against them, I watch tapes of the Lakers and I don't find any weaknesses. They don't do anything wrong. They're awesome." ...Who was the highest player drafted not to make an NBA roster? Former Virginia

hoping to make his family more comfortable now that he's made it to the NBA. "We weren't poor," said Scurry as he described his days growing up, "but we never had any money."...The NBA announced during the annual meetings last June that applications would be accepted for expansion. Since that time, the league has been approached by groups from **Miami, Tampa-St. Petersburg, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Charlotte, St. Louis, Toronto, Kansas City and Santa Ana**. Formal applications have been received from both Miami and Santa Ana...Dallas forward **Mark Aguirre** has been asked to take on the responsibilities of being a leader on his club. The fifth-year forward was asked how he rated himself among NBA players at the same position. "Now, I don't want to sound too cocky," said Aguirre, "but I'd say I'm in the top four. That would be fair. There's a lot of great players out there. I've always wanted to be the best, be on top. But what happens is that ego gets in the way. I think that was the problem," Aguirre said of his days at DePaul in Chicago. "I was supposed to be great, the best who ever dribbled the ball. It made me hyper. What I've learned is to be patient, to observe and enjoy the world without that ego getting in the way. To have some peace of mind."



Pat Riley: Chemical Specialist.

Sixers, rides a stationary bicycle for 20 to 30 minutes after each practice. "It's hard work," says Malone. "Suicide." To which a team trainer responded, "But see the fat burn away?" Malone shot back, "I see my heart fall out."...**Manute Bol** of Washington can't seem to understand all the attention he gets when he's making the rounds with his club.

waived by the LA Clippers during preseason. "The important thing to me is that the (Atlanta) people had the confidence in me to give me another chance," said Williams. "That feels good. The only thing in my mind now is to work hard and do whatever they ask me to do."...Atlanta Coach **Mike Fratello** on Williams: "I think you can find fault with every player in the league, if that's what you're looking to do. When we looked at Ray, we felt that his abilities and his plusses outweighed his minuses."...Denver forward **Calvin Natt** has picked up a few interesting nicknames. To his teammates, Natt is "Pit," the tough pit bull terrier who carried the team on his shoulders to the Western Conference Finals last season. To Denver Coach **Doug Moe**, whose humorous and off-beat style often includes some tongue-in-cheek quips, Natt is "Tish," for "Tissue Paper," which is easily torn and disposed. Actually, Moe thinks Natt's regular battles against a troublesome right knee might be less of a problem if he followed the conditioning programs adhered to by his coach. "See, if the guy had my body, there would be no problem," said Moe, loosening a notch on his belt. "With that crappy body he's carrying around, what do you expect?"

... Another item for the record: In a

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- 3 What Celtic slept on a bench in the Boston Commons after winning the 1974 NBA Championship?
- 4 In 1980 two Celtics retired from basketball...center and a guard. The center was Dave Cowens. Who was the guard?
- 5 Who said "I could take 4 guys off the street in Petersburg (Virginia) and beat them (the Celtics)"?
- 6 Who said "I'm going to look awfully silly if he stuffs the ball and me through the hoop?"

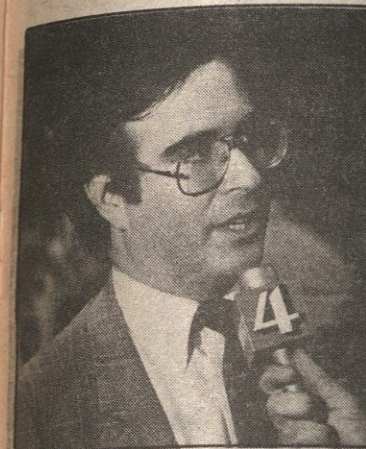
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- 2 Light a cigar
- 3 Dave Cowens
- 4 Pete Maravich
- 5 Moses Malone
- 6 Bill Russell about Wilt Chamberlain



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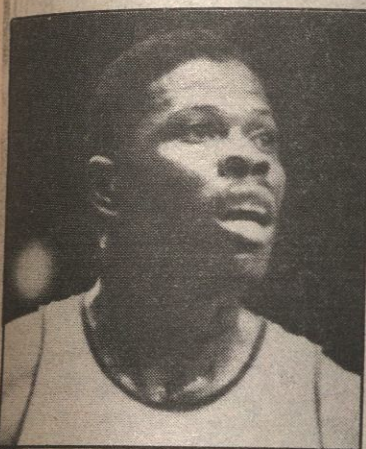
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Jan Volk

General Manager **Jan Volk**, Boston Celtics: "When you're talking about the health of Larry Bird, you're talking about the health of the franchise."



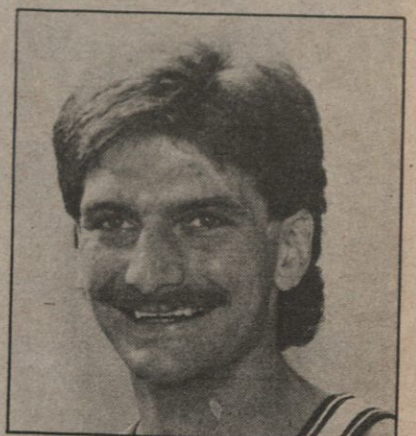
Patrick Ewing

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Bill Walton



Greg Kite

PHOTO FEATURE OF THE MONTH



(A) RUSSELL - CHAMBERLAIN



(B) LARRY BIRD



(C) DANNY AINGE



(D) DAVE COWENS - DOUG COLLINS

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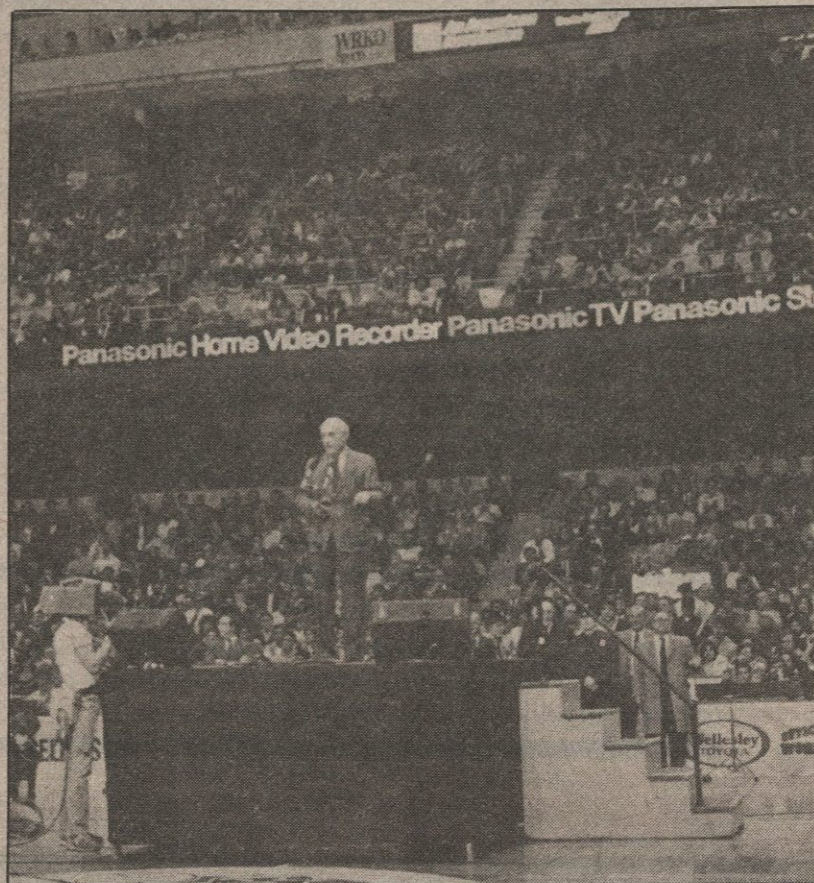
Celtics Classics

January 4 & 5, 1985

Auerbach's Weekend Will Never be Forgotten



Red wasn't speechless



Love was flowing in all directions.



K.C. and Red had all the moves.

The most pivotal figure in the history of the Boston Celtics franchise--and in the entire NBA for that matter--never scored a point, never grabbed a rebound, never blocked a shot and never even wore the uniform.

He's Red Auerbach, one of the Celtics patriarchs and currently team president. And last January, the Celtics honored Auerbach with a special weekend.

It began on the fourth, with a game against the New York Knicks. Several ex-Celtics, from the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's were on hand to pay tribute to Auerbach, as were the current Boston players. The players were brought out on the floor based on the era in which they played.

Although Auerbach still keeps in touch with a good many of his former players, it was quite a sight to see all the old-time Celtics gather at one place, at the same time. What was even more significant was some of the erstwhile Celtics who don't even live in the Boston area anymore, still attended the ceremony.

Of course, the pre-game activities wouldn't have been complete without Bill Russell, the man Auerbach credits for triggering the Celtics dynasty. And when Russell took the floor, that triggered the

biggest show of emotion of the whole weekend.

"It was classic" says Celtics Director of Marketing and Communications Tod Rosensweig, who along with Will McDonough of the Boston Globe and a group called Conventures helped stage the event.

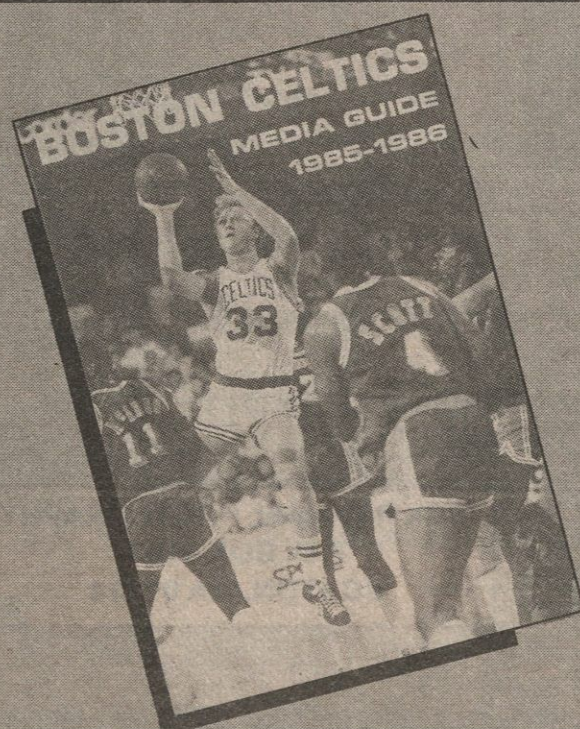
"It was really something special to see Red jumping in Bill Russell's arms. It was beautiful."

"There were a lot of tears and a lot of emotion that night. It was something special. I'm sure Red viewed it as the highlight of his career. It meant a great deal to him."

And Auerbach means a great deal to just about anyone who's ever put on a Celtics uniform.

"Red is the tallest man in the world," Larry Bird said. "Everything he's ever set out to do, he's done."

Said K.C. Jones, who broke in as a Celtics rookie in 1958 and now



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Don Gaston and Alan Cohen salute Red.



Bob Cousy: led the Legends



Number two in the rafters but number one in our hearts.



The Celtics couldn't be "family" without Red's family.

coaches the team: "I wouldn't be anything without Red Auerbach. He has to be one of the brightest men I've ever met. He knows people, personalities and personnel. He knew who could do it and who couldn't. He knew strategy and officials. As a coach, he knew where the offense was and where the defense was and kept the right mixture."

Even those who wore the Celtics colors for a short time realize what a special man Auerbach is.

"You were lucky, Bailey," said Pete Maravich, talking to ex-Celtic forward Bailey Howell. "You got to be a Celtics for four years. I only got in a few games at the end of my career."

Meanwhile, Auerbach would take little credit for making the Boston franchise what it has been for the past three decades--the archetype of success.

"I wouldn't be standing here without the guys standing here," Auerbach said, motioning to the players. They put the flags up--I didn't do it. And the best sixth man I ever had was you fans.

"There's always something that can occupy you--business, marketing--but you can't neglect the product. If you've got the product and

"There were a lot of tears and a lot of emotion that night. It was something special. I'm sure Red viewed it as the highlight of his career".....Tod Rosensweig

the players care for you, you've got a chance."

As a coach and general manager, Auerbach was known for lighting up his victory cigars on the bench after big wins, hurling the invective at officials and doing whatever was necessary to motivate players. But a little-known fact about Auerbach is he was not considered a particularly adroit driver. In the old days, rookies

had to ride with Auerbach during the exhibition season, which proved to be a rather hairy experience.

"Red has wrecked more cars than Evil Kneivel" cracked Bob Cousy.

There was much more to the Auerbach weekend than those pre-game ceremonies. The next day, a legends game between the Celtics old-timers was held at Northeastern's

Matthews Arena. A sellout throng of 3,000 fans showed up for the match, which pitted Auerbach's coaching skills against Bill Russell's.

Final score: Auerbach's club 93, Russell's 90.

"It was a wild scene," Rosensweig said. "Red had a huge argument with the official and was yelling at the time keeper."

Some things never change, eh?

That night, a formal party at the Bayside Exposition Center was held for Auerbach. Cost: \$500 a head. But the money went to the Red Auerbach Foundation, which provides grants for Boston-area athletic organizations.

"It wasn't mercenary," Rosensweig says. "He wasn't looking for us to give him a boat or a car."

What Auerbach did get was an award in his name. NBA Commissioner David Stern decreed that the Coach of the Year award will now be known as the Red Auerbach award. Also, a jersey was retired in Auerbach's honor--number 2.

The Red Auerbach weekend is something that will never be forgotten by anyone who was a part of it.

"It's the best thing I've done since I've been here," Rosensweig said.



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